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[Table of Contents](#)**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K**[X] ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011

OR

[] TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission file number 1-13926

DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

76-0321760

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

15415 Katy Freeway**Houston, Texas 77094**

(Address and zip code of principal executive offices)

(281) 492-5300

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities

Act. Yes [☒] No [☐]

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes [☐] No [☒]

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes [☒] No [☐]Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes [☒] No [☐]Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. [☒]

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer [☒]Accelerated filer [☐]Non-accelerated filer [☐]Smaller reporting company [☐]

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes [☐] No [☒]

State the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the price at which the common equity was last sold as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter.

As of June 30, 2011

\$4,852,827,522

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

As of February 16, 2012 Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share

139,027,209 shares

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the definitive proxy statement relating to the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc., which will be filed within 120 days of December 31, 2011, are incorporated by reference in Part III of this report.

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DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING, INC.
FORM 10-K for the Year Ended December 31, 2011

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Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. is a leading, global offshore oil and gas drilling contractor with a fleet of 49 offshore rigs, consisting of 32 semisubmersibles, 13 jack-ups and four dynamically positioned drillships, three of which are under construction with delivery expected in the second and fourth quarters of 2013 and in the second quarter of 2014. See “– *Fleet Enhancements and Additions*.” Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this report to “Diamond Offshore,” “we,” “us” or “our” mean Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and our consolidated subsidiaries. We were incorporated in Delaware in 1989.

Our Fleet

Our diverse fleet enables us to offer a broad range of services worldwide in both the floater market (ultra-deepwater, deepwater and mid-water) and the non-floater, or jack-up, market.

Floaters. A floater rig is a type of mobile offshore drilling unit that floats and does not rest on the seafloor. This asset class includes self-propelled drillships and semisubmersible rigs. Semisubmersible rigs consist of an upper working and living deck resting on vertical columns connected to lower hull members. Such rigs operate in a “semi-submerged” position, remaining afloat, off bottom, in a position in which the lower hull is approximately 55 feet to 90 feet below the water line and the upper deck protrudes well above the surface. Semisubmersibles hold position while drilling by use of a series of small propulsion units or thrusters that provide dynamic positioning, or DP, to keep the rig on location, or with anchors tethered to the sea bed. While DP semisubmersibles are self-propelled, such rigs may be moved long distances with the assistance of tug boats, while non-DP, or moored, semisubmersibles require tug boats or the use of a heavy lift vessel to move between locations.

A drillship is an adaptation of a maritime vessel which is designed and constructed to carry out drilling operations by means of a substructure with a moon pool centrally located in the hull. Drillships are typically self-propelled and are positioned over a drillsite through the use of either an anchoring system or a dynamic-positioning system similar to those used on semisubmersible rigs.

Our floater fleet (semisubmersibles and drillships) can be further categorized based on the nominal water depth for each class of rig as follows:

Category	Nominal Water Depth ^(a) (in feet)	Number of Units in Our Fleet
Ultra-Deepwater	7,501 to 12,000	11 ^(b)
Deepwater	5,000 to 7,500	6 ^(c)
Mid-Water	400 to 4,999	19

^(a) Nominal water depth for semisubmersibles and drillships reflects the current operating water depth capability for each drilling unit. However, individual rigs are capable of drilling, or have drilled, in marginally greater water depths depending on conditions (such as salinity of the ocean, weather and sea conditions). On a case by case basis, we may achieve even greater depth capacity by providing additional equipment.

^(b) Includes three drillships under construction.

^(c) Includes the *Ocean Onyx* to be constructed utilizing the hull of one of our existing mid-water floaters.

See “– *Fleet Enhancements and Additions*” for further discussion of our rigs under construction.

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Jack-ups. Jack-up rigs are mobile, self-elevating drilling platforms equipped with legs that are lowered to the ocean floor. Our jack-ups are used for drilling in water depths from 20 feet to 350 feet. The water depth limit in which a particular rig is able to operate is principally determined by the length of the rig's legs. The rig hull includes the drilling rig, jacking system, crew quarters, loading and unloading facilities, storage areas for bulk and liquid materials, heliport and other related equipment. A jack-up rig is towed to the drillsite with its hull riding in the sea, as a vessel, with its legs retracted. Once over a drillsite, the legs are lowered until they rest on the seabed and jacking continues with the legs penetrating the seabed until they are firm and stable, and resistance is sufficient to elevate the hull above the surface of the water. After completion of drilling operations, the hull is lowered until it rests in the water and then the legs are retracted for relocation to another drillsite. Most of our jack-up rigs are equipped with a cantilever system that enables the rig to cantilever or extend its drilling package over the aft end of the rig.

Fleet Enhancements and Additions. Our long-term strategy is to upgrade our fleet to meet customer demand for advanced, efficient and high-tech rigs by acquiring or building new rigs when possible to do so at attractive prices, and otherwise by enhancing the capabilities of our existing rigs at a lower cost and reduced construction period than newbuild construction would require. Since December 2010, we have entered into three separate turnkey contracts with Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., Ltd., or Hyundai, for the construction of three dynamically positioned, ultra-deepwater drillships with deliveries scheduled for the second and fourth quarters of 2013 and the second quarter of 2014. We expect the aggregate cost for the three drillships, including commissioning, spares and project management, to be approximately \$1.8 billion.

During 2009, we acquired two new-build ultra-deepwater, dynamically positioned, semisubmersible drilling rigs, the *Ocean Courage* and the *Ocean Valor*. Including our rig acquisitions in 2009 and our three drillships on order, we have purchased, ordered or upgraded eight units with capabilities in nominal water depths of 10,000 feet over the last five years.

In January 2012, we announced the construction of a moored semisubmersible rig that will be designed to operate in water depths up to 6,000 feet. The rig, to be named the *Ocean Onyx*, will be constructed utilizing the hull of one of our mid-water floaters that previously operated as the *Ocean Voyager*. The rig will be constructed in Brownsville, Texas and is expected to be delivered in the third quarter of 2013 at an aggregate cost of approximately \$300 million, including commissioning, spares and project management costs.

We will evaluate further rig acquisition and upgrade opportunities as they arise. However, we can provide no assurance whether, or to what extent, we will continue to make rig acquisitions or upgrades to our fleet. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Liquidity and Capital Requirements" in Item 7 of this report.

See "– Fleet Status" for more detailed information about our drilling fleet as of January 30, 2012.

[Table of Contents](#)*Fleet Status*

The following table presents additional information regarding our floater fleet at January 30, 2012:

<u>Type and Name</u>	<u>Nominal Water Depth (in feet)</u>	<u>Attributes</u>	<u>Year Built/ Redelivered (a)</u>	<u>Current Location (b)</u>	<u>Customer (c)</u>
Ultra-Deepwater Semisubmersibles (7):					
Ocean Valor	10,000	DP; 6R; 15K; 4M	2009	Brazil	Petrobras
Ocean Courage	10,000	DP; 6R; 15K; 4M	2009	Brazil	Petrobras
Ocean Confidence	10,000	DP; 6R; 15K; 4M	2001	Angola	Cobalt
Ocean Monarch	10,000	15K; 4M	2008	Vietnam	TNK Vietnam
Ocean Endeavor	10,000	15K; 4M	2007	Egypt	Burullus
Ocean Rover	8,000	15K; 4M	2003	Malaysia	Murphy Exploration
Ocean Baroness	8,000	15K; 4M	2002	Brazil	Petrobras
Ultra-Deepwater Drillships (4):					
Ocean BlackHawk	10,000	DP; 7R; 15K; 5M	Q2 2013	South Korea	Under construction/Anadarko (d)
Ocean BlackHornet	10,000	DP; 7R; 15K; 5M	Q4 2013	South Korea	Under construction/Anadarko (d)
Ocean BlackRhino	10,000	DP; 7R; 15K; 5M	Q2 2014	South Korea	Under construction
Ocean Clipper	7,875	DP; 15K	1997	Brazil	Petrobras
Deepwater Semisubmersibles (6)					
Ocean Onyx	6,000	15K	Q3 2013	GOM shipyard	Under construction (e)
Ocean Victory	5,500	15K	1997	GOM	Walter Oil & Gas
Ocean America	5,500	15K	1988	Australia	Woodside
Ocean Valiant	5,500	15K	1988	Equatorial Guinea	Hess
Ocean Star	5,500	15K	1997	Brazil	Perenco
Ocean Alliance	5,250	DP; 15K	1988	Brazil	Petrobras
Mid-Water Semisubmersibles (19):					
Ocean Winner	4,000		1976	Brazil	Petrobras
Ocean Worker	4,000		1982	Brazil	Petrobras
Ocean Quest	4,000	15K	1973	Brazil	OGX
Ocean Yatzu	3,300	DP	1989	Brazil	Petrobras
Ocean Patriot	3,000	15K	1983	Australia	PTTEP
Ocean Epoch	3,000		1977	Malaysia	Cold stacked
Ocean General	3,000		1976	Malaysia	Actively marketing
Ocean Yorktown	2,850		1976	Mexico	PEMEX
Ocean Concord	2,300		1975	Brazil	Petrobras
Ocean Lexington	2,200		1976	Brazil	OGX
Ocean Saratoga	2,200		1976	Guyana	CGX Energy
Ocean Whittington	1,650		1974	Brazil	Petrobras
Ocean Bounty	1,500		1976	Malaysia	Cold stacked
Ocean Guardian	1,500	15K	1985	In transit: North Sea/U.K.	DODI/Shell
Ocean New Era	1,500		1974	GOM	Cold stacked
Ocean Princess	1,500	15K	1975	North Sea/U.K.	Enquest
Ocean Vanguard	1,500	15K	1982	North Sea/Norway	Statoil
Ocean Nomad	1,200		1975	North Sea/U.K.	B G International
Ocean Ambassador	1,100		1975	Brazil	OGX

<u>Attributes</u>		
DP = D	7R = Seven ram blow out preventer	4M = Four Mud Pumps
6R = Six ram blow out preventer	15K = 15,000 psi well control system	5M = Five Mud Pumps

- (a) Represents year rig was (or is expected to be) built and originally placed in service or year redelivered with significant enhancements that enabled the rig to be classified within a different floater category than originally constructed.
- (b) GOM means U.S. Gulf of Mexico.
- (c) For ease of presentation in this table, customer names have been shortened or abbreviated.
- (d) Drillship is contracted for future work upon completion of commissioning; unit is currently expected to commence drilling operations in the GOM.
- (e) To be constructed utilizing the hull of an existing mid-water unit, which previously operated as the *Ocean Voyager*.

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The following table presents additional information regarding our jack-up fleet at January 30, 2012:

<u>Type and Name</u>	<u>Nominal Water Depth (a) (in feet)</u>	<u>Attributes</u>	<u>Year Built</u>	<u>Current Location (b)</u>	<u>Customer (c)</u>
Jack-ups (13):					
Ocean Scepter	350	IC; 15K	2008	Mexico	PEMEX
Ocean Titan	350	IC; 15K	1974	Mexico	PEMEX
Ocean King	300	IC	1973	Montenegro	Actively marketing
Ocean Nugget	300	IC	1976	Mexico	PEMEX
Ocean Summit	300	IC	1972	Mexico	PEMEX
Ocean Heritage	300	IC	1981	Egypt	Warm stacked
Ocean Spartan	300	IC	1980	GOM	Cold stacked
Ocean Spur	300	IC	1981	Egypt	WEPCO
Ocean Sovereign	300	IC	1981	Malaysia	Cold stacked
Ocean Champion	250	MS	1975	GOM	Cold stacked
Ocean Columbia	250	IC	1978	GOM	Walter Oil & Gas
Ocean Crusader	200	MC	1982	GOM	Cold stacked
Ocean Drake	200	MC	1983	GOM	Cold stacked

<u>Attributes</u>		
IC = Independent-Leg Cantilevered Rig	MS = Mat-Supported Slot Rig	15K = 15,000 psi well control system
MC = Mat-Supported Cantilevered Rig		

- (a) Nominal water depth reflects the operating water depth capability for each drilling unit.
 (b) GOM means U.S. Gulf of Mexico.
 (c) For ease of presentation in this table, customer names have been shortened or abbreviated.

Markets

The principal markets for our offshore contract drilling services are the following:

- South America, principally offshore Brazil;
- Australia and Asia, including Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam;
- the Middle East, including Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia;
- Europe, principally in the United Kingdom, or U.K., and Norway;
- East and West Africa;
- the Mediterranean Basin, including Egypt; and
- the Gulf of Mexico, including the U.S. and Mexico.

We actively market our rigs worldwide. From time to time our fleet operates in various other markets throughout the world. See Note 15 “Segments and Geographic Area Analysis” to our Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report.

We believe our presence in multiple markets is valuable in many respects. For example, we believe that our experience with safety and other regulatory matters in the U.K. has been beneficial in Australia and other international areas in which we operate, while production experience we have gained through our Brazilian and North Sea operations has potential application worldwide. Additionally, we believe our performance for a customer in one market segment or area enables us to better understand that customer’s needs and better serve that customer in different market segments or other geographic locations.

Offshore Contract Drilling Services

Our contracts to provide offshore drilling services vary in their terms and provisions. We typically obtain our contracts through a competitive bid process, although it is not unusual for us to be awarded drilling contracts following direct negotiations. Our drilling contracts generally provide for a basic fixed dayrate regardless of whether or not such drilling results in a productive well. Drilling contracts may also provide for reductions in rates during periods when the rig is being moved or when drilling operations are interrupted or restricted by equipment breakdowns, adverse weather conditions or other circumstances. Under dayrate contracts, we generally pay the operating expenses of the rig, including wages and the cost of incidental supplies. Historically, dayrate contracts have accounted for the majority of our revenues. In addition, from time to time, our dayrate contracts may also provide for the ability to earn an incentive bonus from our customer based upon performance.

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The duration of a dayrate drilling contract is generally tied to the time required to drill a single well or a group of wells, in what we refer to as a well-to-well contract, or a fixed period of time, in what we refer to as a term contract. Many drilling contracts may be terminated by the customer in the event the drilling unit is destroyed or lost, or if drilling operations are suspended for an extended period of time as a result of a breakdown of equipment or, in some cases, due to events beyond the control of either party to the contract. Certain of our contracts also permit the customer to terminate the contract early by giving notice; in most circumstances, this requires the payment of an early termination fee by the customer. The contract term in many instances may also be extended by the customer exercising options for the drilling of additional wells or for an additional length of time, generally at competitive market rates and mutually agreeable terms at the time of the extension. See “Risk Factors – *Our business involves numerous operating hazards which could expose us to significant losses and significant damage claims. We are not fully insured against all of these risks and our contractual indemnity provisions may not fully protect us,*” “Risk Factors – *The terms of our drilling contracts may limit our ability to attain profitability in a declining market or to benefit from increasing dayrates in an improving market,*” “Risk Factors – *Our drilling contracts may be terminated due to events beyond our control*” and “Risk Factors – *We have elected to self-insure for physical damage to rigs and equipment caused by named windstorms in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico*” in Item 1A of this report, which are incorporated herein by reference. For a discussion of our contract backlog, see “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Overview – *Contract Drilling Backlog*” in Item 7 of this report, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Customers

We provide offshore drilling services to a customer base that includes major and independent oil and gas companies and government-owned oil companies. During 2011, 2010 and 2009, we performed services for 52, 46 and 47 different customers, respectively. During 2011, 2010 and 2009, one of our customers in Brazil, Petróleo Brasileiro S.A., or Petrobras (a Brazilian multinational energy company that is majority-owned by the Brazilian government), accounted for 35%, 24% and 15% of our annual total consolidated revenues, respectively. OGX Petróleo e Gás Ltda., or OGX (a privately owned Brazilian oil and natural gas company), accounted for 14% of our annual total consolidated revenues in each of the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010. No other customer accounted for 10% or more of our annual total consolidated revenues during 2011, 2010 or 2009.

Brazil is one of the most active floater markets in the world today. As of the date of this report, the greatest concentration of our operating assets is offshore Brazil, where we have 14 rigs currently working. Our contract backlog attributable to our expected operations offshore Brazil is \$1.3 billion, \$1.2 billion and \$1.0 billion for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014, respectively, and \$607.0 million in the aggregate for the years 2015 to 2016. See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Overview – *Contract Drilling Backlog*” included in Item 7 of this report.

We principally market our services in North and South America through our Houston, Texas office. We market our services in other geographic locations principally from our regional offices in Aberdeen, Scotland and Perth, Australia. We provide technical and administrative support functions from our Houston office.

Competition

The offshore contract drilling industry is highly competitive with numerous industry participants, none of which at the present time has a dominant market share. The offshore contract drilling industry has experienced consolidation in recent years and may experience additional consolidation, which could create additional large competitors. Some of our competitors may have greater financial or other resources than we do. We compete with offshore drilling contractors that together have almost 760 mobile rigs available worldwide.

The offshore contract drilling industry is influenced by a number of factors, including global economies and demand for oil and natural gas, current and anticipated prices of oil and natural gas, expenditures by oil and gas companies for exploration and development of oil and natural gas and the availability of drilling rigs.

Drilling contracts are traditionally awarded on a competitive bid basis. Price is typically the primary factor in determining which qualified contractor is awarded a job. Customers may also consider rig availability and location, a drilling contractor’s operational and safety performance record, and condition and suitability of equipment. We believe we compete favorably with respect to these factors.

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We compete on a worldwide basis, but competition may vary significantly by region at any particular time. See “—Markets.” Competition for offshore rigs generally takes place on a global basis, as these rigs are highly mobile and may be moved, at a cost that may be substantial, from one region to another. It is characteristic of the offshore contract drilling industry to move rigs from areas of low utilization and dayrates to areas of greater activity and relatively higher dayrates. Significant new rig construction and upgrades of existing drilling units could also intensify price competition. See “Risk Factors – *Our industry is highly competitive and cyclical, with intense price competition*” in Item 1A of this report, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Governmental Regulation

Our operations are subject to numerous international, foreign, U.S., state and local laws and regulations that relate directly or indirectly to our operations, including regulations controlling the discharge of materials into the environment, requiring removal and clean-up under some circumstances, or otherwise relating to the protection of the environment, and may include laws or regulations pertaining to climate change, carbon emissions or energy use. See “Risk Factors – *Governmental laws and regulations, both domestic and international, may add to our costs or limit our drilling activity*” and “Risk Factors – *Compliance with or breach of environmental laws can be costly and could limit our operations*” in Item 1A of this report, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Operations Outside the United States

Our operations outside the U.S. accounted for approximately 90%, 81% and 66% of our total consolidated revenues for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. See “Risk Factors – *A significant portion of our operations are conducted outside the United States and involve additional risks not associated with domestic operations*,” “Risk Factors – *We may enter into drilling contracts that expose us to greater risks than we normally assume*” and “Risk Factors – *Fluctuations in exchange rates and nonconvertibility of currencies could result in losses to us*” in Item 1A of this report, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Employees

As of December 31, 2011, we had approximately 5,300 workers, including international crew personnel furnished through independent labor contractors.

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We have included information on our executive officers in Part I of this report in reliance on General Instruction G(3) to Form 10-K. Our executive officers are elected annually by our Board of Directors to serve until the next annual meeting of our Board of Directors, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified, or until their earlier death, resignation, disqualification or removal from office. Information with respect to our executive officers is set forth below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age as of January 31, 2012</u>	<u>Position</u>
Lawrence R. Dickerson	59	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
John M. Vecchio	61	Executive Vice President
Gary T. Krenek	53	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
William C. Long	45	Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary
Beth G. Gordon	56	Controller – Chief Accounting Officer
Lyndol L. Dew	57	Senior Vice President – Worldwide Operations

Lawrence R. Dickerson has served as our President and a Director since March 1998 and as our Chief Executive Officer since June 2008. Mr. Dickerson served as our Chief Operating Officer from March 1998 to June 2008. Mr. Dickerson served on the United States Commission on Ocean Policy from 2001 to 2004.

John M. Vecchio has served as Executive Vice President since August 2009. Mr. Vecchio previously served as our Senior Vice President – Technical Services from April 2002 to July 2009.

Gary T. Krenek has served as a Senior Vice President and our Chief Financial Officer since October 2006. Mr. Krenek previously served as our Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since March 1998.

William C. Long has served as a Senior Vice President and our General Counsel and Secretary since October 2006. Mr. Long previously served as our Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since March 2001 and as our General Counsel and Secretary from March 1999 through February 2001.

Beth G. Gordon has served as our Controller and Chief Accounting Officer since April 2000.

Lyndol L. Dew has served as a Senior Vice President since September 2006. Previously, Mr. Dew served as our Vice President-International Operations from January 2006 to August 2006 and as our Vice President – North American Operations from January 2003 to December 2005.

Access to Company Filings

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and accordingly file annual, quarterly and current reports, any amendments to those reports, proxy statements and other information with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. You may read and copy the information we file with the SEC at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's Internet site at www.sec.gov or from our Internet site at www.diamondoffshore.com. Our website provides a hyperlink to a third-party SEC filings website where these reports may be viewed and printed at no cost as soon as reasonably practicable after we have electronically filed such material with, or furnished it to, the SEC. The information contained on our website, or on other websites linked to our website, is not part of this report.

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Our business is subject to a variety of risks, including the risks described below. You should carefully consider these risks when evaluating us and our securities. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing our company. We are also subject to a variety of risks that affect many other companies generally, as well as additional risks and uncertainties not known to us or that we currently believe are not as significant as the risks described below. If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows, and the trading prices of our securities, may be materially and adversely affected.

Our business depends on the level of activity in the oil and gas industry, which is significantly affected by volatile oil and gas prices.

Our business depends on the level of activity in offshore oil and gas exploration, development and production in markets worldwide. Worldwide demand for oil and gas, oil and gas prices, market expectations of potential changes in these prices and a variety of political and economic factors significantly affect this level of activity. However, higher or lower commodity demand and prices do not necessarily translate into increased or decreased drilling activity since our customers' project development time, reserve replacement needs, as well as expectations of future commodity demand and prices all combine to affect demand for our rigs. Oil and gas prices have been, and are expected to continue to be, extremely volatile and are affected by numerous factors beyond our control, including:

- worldwide demand for oil and gas;
- the level of economic activity in energy-consuming markets;
- the worldwide economic environment or economic trends, such as recessions;
- the ability of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, commonly called OPEC, to set and maintain production levels and pricing;
- the level of production in non-OPEC countries;
- the worldwide political and military environment, including uncertainty or instability resulting from an escalation or additional outbreak of armed hostilities in the Middle East, other oil-producing regions or other geographic areas or further acts of terrorism in the United States or elsewhere;
- civil unrest;
- the cost of exploring for, producing and delivering oil and gas;
- the discovery rate of new oil and gas reserves;
- the rate of decline of existing and new oil and gas reserves;
- available pipeline and other oil and gas transportation and refining capacity;
- the ability of oil and gas companies to raise capital;
- weather conditions in the United States and elsewhere;
- natural disasters or incidents resulting from operating hazards inherent in offshore drilling, such as oil spills;
- the policies of various governments regarding exploration and development of their oil and gas reserves;
- development and exploitation of alternative fuels or energy sources;
- competition for customers' drilling budgets from land-based energy markets around the world;
- domestic and foreign tax policy; and
- advances in exploration and development technology.

Governmental laws and regulations, both domestic and international, may add to our costs or limit our drilling activity.

Our operations are affected from time to time in varying degrees by governmental laws and regulations. The drilling industry is dependent on demand for services from the oil and gas exploration industry and, accordingly, is affected by changing tax and other laws relating to the energy business generally. We may be required to make significant capital expenditures to comply with governmental laws and regulations. It is also possible that these laws and regulations may in the future add significantly to our operating costs or may significantly limit drilling activity.

In the aftermath of the Macondo well blowout in April 2010 and the subsequent investigation into the causes of the event, new rules for oil and gas operations on the Outer Continental Shelf, or OCS, have been implemented, including new standards for well design, casing and cementing and well control procedures, as well as rules requiring operators to systematically identify risks and establish safeguards against those risks through a comprehensive safety and environmental management system, or SEMS. New regulations may continue to be

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announced, including rules regarding employee training, engaging personnel in safety management and requiring third party audits of SEMS programs. We are not able to predict the likelihood, nature or extent of additional rulemaking, nor are we able to predict the future impact of these events on our operations. Additional governmental regulations concerning licensing, taxation, equipment specifications, training requirements or other matters could increase the costs of our operations, and escalating costs borne by our customers could reduce exploration activity in the GOM and therefore demand for our services.

Governments in some countries are increasingly active in regulating and controlling the ownership of concessions, the exploration for oil and gas and other aspects of the oil and gas industry. The modification of existing laws or regulations or the adoption of new laws or regulations curtailing exploratory or developmental drilling for oil and gas for economic, environmental or other reasons could materially and adversely affect our operations by limiting drilling opportunities.

As awareness of climate change issues increases, governments around the world are beginning to address the matter. This may result in new environmental regulations that may unfavorably impact us, our suppliers and our customers. We may be exposed to risks related to new laws or regulations pertaining to climate change, carbon emissions or energy use that could decrease the use of oil or natural gas, thus reducing demand for hydrocarbon-based fuel and our drilling services. Governments may also pass laws or regulations encouraging or mandating the use of alternative energy sources, such as wind power and solar energy, which may reduce demand for oil and natural gas and our drilling services. In addition, new laws or regulations, including those that may come into effect following the Macondo incident, may require an increase in our capital spending for additional equipment to comply with such requirements and could also result in a reduction in revenues associated with downtime required to install such equipment.

Our business involves numerous operating hazards which could expose us to significant losses and significant damage claims. We are not fully insured against all of these risks and our contractual indemnity provisions may not fully protect us.

Our operations are subject to the significant hazards inherent in drilling for oil and gas offshore, such as blowouts, reservoir damage, loss of production, loss of well control, unstable or faulty sea floor conditions, fires and natural disasters such as hurricanes. The occurrence of any of these types of events could result in the suspension of drilling operations, damage to or destruction of the equipment involved and injury or death to rig personnel, damage to producing or potentially productive oil and gas formations, and oil spillage, oil leaks, well blowouts and extensive uncontrolled fires, any of which could cause significant environmental damage. In addition, offshore drilling operations are subject to perils peculiar to marine operations, including capsizing, grounding, collision and loss or damage from severe weather. Operations also may be suspended because of machinery breakdowns, abnormal drilling conditions, failure of subcontractors to perform or supply goods or services or personnel shortages. Any of the foregoing events could result in significant damage or loss to our properties and assets, significant loss of revenues, and significant damage claims against us, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Consistent with industry practice, our contracts with our customers generally contain contractual rights to indemnity from our customer for, among other things, pollution originating from the well, while we retain responsibility for pollution originating from the rig. However, our contractual rights to indemnification may be unenforceable or limited due to negligent or willful acts of commission or omission by us, our subcontractors and/or suppliers and our customers may dispute, or be unable to meet, their contractual indemnification obligations to us.

We maintain liability insurance, which includes coverage for environmental damage; however, because of contractual provisions and policy limits, our insurance coverage may not adequately cover our losses and claim costs. In addition, pollution and environmental risks are generally not fully insurable when they are determined to be the result of criminal acts. Also, we do not typically purchase loss-of-hire insurance to cover lost revenues when a rig is unable to work. Moreover, insurance costs across the industry have increased following the Macondo incident and, in the future, certain insurance coverage is likely to become more costly and may become less available or not available at all. Accordingly, it is possible that our losses from the hazards we face could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

We believe that the policy limit under our marine liability insurance is within the range that is customary for companies of our size in the offshore drilling industry and is appropriate for our business. However, if an accident or other event occurs that exceeds our coverage limits or is not an insurable event under our insurance policies, or is not

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fully covered by contractual indemnity, it could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial position and cash flows. There can be no assurance that we will continue to carry the insurance we currently maintain, that our insurance will cover all types of losses or that those parties with contractual obligations to indemnify us will necessarily be financially able to indemnify us against all of these risks. In addition, no assurance can be made that we will be able to maintain adequate insurance in the future at rates we consider to be reasonable or that we will be able to obtain insurance against some risks.

Accordingly, the occurrence of any of the hazards we face could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Compliance with or breach of environmental laws can be costly and could limit our operations.

In the United States and in many of the international locations in which we operate, regulations controlling the discharge of materials into the environment, requiring removal and cleanup of materials that may harm the environment or otherwise relating to the protection of the environment apply to some of our operations. For example, we, as an operator of mobile offshore drilling units in navigable United States waters and some offshore areas, may be liable for damages and costs incurred in connection with oil spills related to those operations. Laws and regulations protecting the environment have become increasingly stringent, and may in some cases impose “strict liability,” rendering a person liable for environmental damage without regard to negligence or fault on the part of that person. These laws and regulations may expose us to liability for the conduct of, or conditions caused by, others or for acts that were in compliance with all applicable laws at the time they were performed.

The United States Oil Pollution Act of 1990, or OPA '90, and similar legislation enacted in Texas, Louisiana and other coastal states, addresses oil spill prevention and control and significantly expands liability exposure across all segments of the oil and gas industry. OPA '90 and such similar legislation and related regulations impose a variety of obligations on us related to the prevention of oil spills and liability for damages resulting from such spills. OPA '90 imposes strict and, with limited exceptions, joint and several liability upon each responsible party for oil removal costs and a variety of public and private damages.

The application of these requirements or the adoption of new requirements could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

Our industry is highly competitive and cyclical, with intense price competition.

The offshore contract drilling industry is highly competitive with numerous industry participants, none of which at the present time has a dominant market share. Some of our competitors may have greater financial or other resources than we do. The drilling industry has experienced consolidation in the past and may experience additional consolidation, which could create additional large competitors. Drilling contracts are traditionally awarded on a competitive bid basis. Price is typically the primary factor in determining which qualified contractor is awarded a job; however, rig availability and location, a drilling contractor's safety record and the quality and technical capability of service and equipment may also be considered.

Our industry has historically been cyclical. There have been periods of lower demand, excess rig supply and low dayrates, followed by periods of high demand, short rig supply and high dayrates. We cannot predict the timing or duration of such business cycles. Periods of excess rig supply intensify the competition in the industry and often result in rigs being idle for long periods of time. In response to a contraction in demand for certain types of our drilling rigs, primarily our shallow water jack-up rigs, we have cold stacked eight rigs as of the date of this report. We also may be required to idle additional rigs or to enter into lower rate contracts. Prolonged periods of low utilization and dayrates could also result in the recognition of impairment charges on certain of our drilling rigs if future cash flow estimates, based upon information available to management at the time, indicate that the carrying value of these rigs may not be recoverable.

Significant new rig construction and upgrades of existing drilling units could also intensify price competition. As of the date of this report, based on analyst reports, we believe that there are approximately 77 jack-up rigs and 96 floaters on order and scheduled for delivery between 2012 and 2018, with approximately half of these rigs scheduled for delivery in the next two years. The resulting increases in rig supply could be sufficient to depress rig utilization and intensify price competition from both existing competitors, as well as new entrants into the offshore drilling market. As of the date of this report, not all of the rigs currently under construction have been contracted for future work, which may further intensify price competition as scheduled delivery dates occur. The majority of the floaters

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on order are dynamically positioned drilling units, which further increases competition with our fleet in certain circumstances, depending on customer requirements. In Brazil, Petrobras, which accounted for approximately 35% of our consolidated revenues in 2011 and, as of February 1, 2012, accounted for approximately \$3.7 billion of our contract drilling backlog through 2016 and to which ten of our floaters are currently contracted, has announced plans to construct locally 33 new deepwater drilling units to be delivered beginning in 2015. These new drilling units would increase rig supply and could intensify price competition in Brazil as well as other markets as they enter the market, would compete with, and could displace, our deepwater and ultra-deepwater floaters coming off contract and could materially adversely affect our utilization rates, particularly in Brazil.

We can provide no assurance that our current backlog of contract drilling revenue will be ultimately realized.

As of the date of this report, our contract drilling backlog was approximately \$8.6 billion for contracted future work extending, in some cases, until 2019. Generally, contract backlog only includes future revenues under firm commitments; however, from time to time, we may report anticipated commitments for which definitive agreements have not yet been, but are expected to be, executed. We can provide no assurance that we will be able to perform under these contracts due to events beyond our control or that we will be able to ultimately execute a definitive agreement in cases where one does not currently exist. In addition, we can provide no assurance that our customers will be able to or willing to fulfill their contractual commitments to us. Our inability to perform under our contractual obligations or to execute definitive agreements or our customers' inability to fulfill their contractual commitments to us may have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Overview – Contract Drilling Backlog" included in Item 7 of this report.

We rely heavily on a relatively small number of customers and the loss of a significant customer and/or a dispute that leads to the loss of a customer could have a material adverse impact on our financial results.

We provide offshore drilling services to a customer base that includes major and independent oil and gas companies and government-owned oil companies. In 2011, our five largest customers in the aggregate accounted for 62% of our consolidated revenues. We expect Petrobras and OGX, which accounted for approximately 35% and 14% of our consolidated revenues in 2011, respectively, to continue to be significant customers in 2012. Our contract drilling backlog, as of the date of this report, includes \$1.3 billion, or 51% of our total contracted backlog for 2012, which is attributable to contracts with Petrobras and OGX for operations offshore Brazil. While it is normal for our customer base to change over time as work programs are completed, the loss of any major customer may have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Overview – Contract Drilling Backlog" included in Item 7 of this report.

The terms of our drilling contracts may limit our ability to attain profitability in a declining market or to benefit from increasing dayrates in an improving market.

The duration of offshore drilling contracts is generally determined by customer requirements and, to a lesser extent, the respective management strategies of the offshore drilling contractors. In periods of decreasing demand for offshore rigs, drilling contractors generally prefer longer term contracts, but often at flat or slightly lower dayrates, to preserve dayrates at existing levels and ensure utilization, while customers prefer shorter contracts that allow them to more quickly obtain the benefit of lower dayrates. Conversely, in periods of rising demand for offshore rigs, contractors typically prefer shorter contracts that allow them to more quickly profit from increasing dayrates. In contrast, during these periods customers with reasonably definite drilling programs typically prefer longer term contracts to maintain dayrate prices at a consistent level. An inability to obtain longer term contracts in a declining market or to fully benefit from increasing dayrates in an improving market through shorter term contracts may limit our profitability.

Contracts for our drilling units are generally fixed dayrate contracts, and increases in our operating costs could adversely affect our profitability on those contracts.

Our contracts for our drilling units provide for the payment of a fixed dayrate per rig operating day, although some contracts do provide for a limited escalation in dayrate due to increased operating costs incurred by us. Many of our operating costs, such as labor costs, are unpredictable and fluctuate based on events beyond our control. The gross margin that we realize on these fixed dayrate contracts will fluctuate based on variations in our operating costs over the terms of the contracts. In addition, for contracts with dayrate escalation clauses, we may not be able to fully recover increased or unforeseen costs from our customers. Our inability to recover these increased or unforeseen costs from our customers could materially and adversely affect our financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

[Table of Contents](#)***Our drilling contracts may be terminated due to events beyond our control.***

Our customers may terminate some of our term drilling contracts if the drilling unit is destroyed or lost or if we have to suspend drilling operations for a specified period of time as a result of a breakdown of major equipment or, in some cases, due to other events beyond the control of either party. In addition, some of our drilling contracts permit the customer to terminate the contract after specified notice periods by tendering contractually specified termination amounts. These termination payments may not fully compensate us for the loss of a contract. In addition, the early termination of a contract may result in a rig being idle for an extended period of time, which could adversely affect our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. During periods of depressed market conditions, we may be subject to an increased risk of our customers seeking to repudiate their contracts. Our customers' ability to perform their obligations under drilling contracts with us may also be adversely affected by restricted credit markets and the economic downturn. If our customers cancel some of their contracts, and we are unable to secure new contracts on a timely basis and on substantially similar terms, or if contracts are disputed or suspended for an extended period of time or if a number of our contracts are renegotiated, it could materially and adversely affect our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

A significant portion of our operations are conducted outside the United States and involve additional risks not associated with domestic operations.

We operate in various regions throughout the world which may expose us to political and other uncertainties, including risks of:

- terrorist acts, war and civil disturbances;
- piracy or assaults on property or personnel;
- kidnapping of personnel;
- expropriation of property or equipment;
- renegotiation or nullification of existing contracts;
- changing political conditions;
- foreign and domestic monetary policies;
- the inability to repatriate income or capital;
- difficulties in collecting accounts receivable and longer collection periods;
- fluctuations in currency exchange rates;
- regulatory or financial requirements to comply with foreign bureaucratic actions;
- travel limitations or operational problems caused by public health threats; and
- changing taxation policies.

We are subject to the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control and other U.S. laws and regulations governing our international operations in addition to worldwide anti-bribery laws. In addition, international contract drilling operations are subject to various laws and regulations in countries in which we operate, including laws and regulations relating to:

- the equipping and operation of drilling units;
- import-export quotas or other trade barriers;
- repatriation of foreign earnings or capital;
- oil and gas exploration and development;
- taxation of offshore earnings and earnings of expatriate personnel; and
- use and compensation of local employees and suppliers by foreign contractors.

Some foreign governments favor or effectively require the awarding of drilling contracts to local contractors, require use of a local agent or require foreign contractors to employ citizens of, or purchase supplies from, a particular jurisdiction. These practices may adversely affect our ability to compete in those regions. It is difficult to predict what governmental regulations may be enacted in the future that could adversely affect the international drilling industry. The actions of foreign governments may materially and adversely affect our ability to compete.

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In addition, the shipment of goods, including the movement of a drilling rig across international borders, subjects us to extensive trade laws and regulations. Our import activities are governed by unique customs laws and regulations that differ in each of the countries in which we operate and often impose record keeping and reporting obligations. The laws and regulations concerning import/export activity and record keeping and reporting requirements are complex and change frequently. These laws and regulations may be enacted, amended enforced and/or interpreted in a manner that could materially and adversely impact our operations. Shipments can be delayed and denied export or entry for a variety of reasons, some of which may be outside of our control. Shipping delays or denials could cause unscheduled downtime for our rigs. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations could result in criminal and civil penalties, economic sanctions, seizure of shipments and/or the contractual withholding of monies owed to us, among other things.

As of the date of this report, the greatest concentration of our operating assets outside the United States was offshore Brazil, where we had 14 rigs in our fleet either currently working or contracted to work during 2012.

We may enter into drilling contracts that expose us to greater risks than we normally assume.

From time to time, we may enter into drilling contracts with national oil companies, government-controlled entities or others that expose us to greater risks than we normally assume, such as exposure to greater environmental or other liability and more onerous termination provisions giving the customer a right to terminate without cause or upon little or no notice. Upon termination, these contracts may not result in a payment to us, or if a termination payment is required, it may not fully compensate us for the loss of a contract. In addition, the early termination of a contract may result in a rig being idle for an extended period of time, which could adversely affect our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. For example, we currently operate, and expect to continue to operate, our drilling rigs offshore Mexico for PEMEX – Exploración y Producción, or PEMEX, the national oil company of Mexico. The terms of these contracts expose us to greater environmental liability than we normally assume, and provide that, among other things, each contract can be terminated by PEMEX on short notice, contractually or by statute, subject to certain conditions. While we believe that the financial terms of these contracts and our operating safeguards in place mitigate these risks, we can provide no assurance that the increased risk exposure will not have a material negative impact on our future operations or financial results.

Fluctuations in exchange rates and nonconvertibility of currencies could result in losses to us.

Due to our international operations, we have experienced currency exchange losses where revenues are received and expenses are paid in nonconvertible currencies or where we do not effectively hedge an exposure to a foreign currency. We may also incur losses as a result of an inability to collect revenues because of a shortage of convertible currency available to the country of operation, controls over currency exchange or controls over the repatriation of income or capital. We can provide no assurance that financial hedging arrangements will effectively hedge any foreign currency fluctuation losses that may arise.

Changes in laws, effective income tax rates or adverse outcomes resulting from examination of our tax returns could adversely affect our financial results.

Tax laws and regulations are highly complex and subject to interpretation and disputes. We conduct our worldwide operations through various subsidiaries in a number of different jurisdictions. We are subject to the tax laws, tax regulations and income tax treaties within and between the countries in which we operate as well as countries in which we may be resident. We determine our income tax expense based on our interpretation of the applicable tax laws and regulations in effect in each jurisdiction for the period during which we operate and earn income. Our overall effective tax rate could be adversely and suddenly affected by lower than anticipated earnings in countries where we have lower statutory rates and higher than anticipated earnings in countries where we have higher statutory rates, by changes in the valuation of our deferred tax assets and liabilities or by changes in tax law, tax treaties, regulations, accounting principles or interpretations thereof in one or more countries in which we operate.

Our income tax returns are subject to review and examination. We do not recognize the benefit of income tax positions we believe are more likely than not to be disallowed upon challenge by a tax authority. If any tax authority successfully challenges any tax position taken, or if the terms of certain income tax treaties are interpreted in a manner that is adverse to our operations, or if we lose a material tax dispute in any country, our effective tax rate on our worldwide earnings could increase substantially and our earnings and cash flows from operations could be materially adversely affected.

Table of Contents***We may be required to accrue additional tax liability on certain of our foreign earnings.***

Certain of our international rigs are owned and operated, directly or indirectly, by Diamond Offshore International Limited, or DOIL, a Cayman Islands subsidiary which we wholly own. It is our intention to indefinitely reinvest future earnings of DOIL and its foreign subsidiaries to finance foreign activities. We do not expect to provide for U.S. taxes on any future earnings generated by DOIL, except to the extent that these earnings are immediately subjected to U.S. federal income tax. Should a future distribution be made from any unremitted earnings of this subsidiary, we may be required to record additional U.S. income taxes that, if material, could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

Acts of terrorism and other political and military events could adversely affect the markets for our drilling services.

Terrorist attacks and the continued threat of terrorism in the U.S. and abroad, the continuation or escalation of existing armed hostilities or the outbreak of additional hostilities could lead to increased political, economic and financial market instability and a downturn in the economies of the U.S. and other countries. A lower level of economic activity could result in a decline in energy consumption or an increase in the volatility of energy prices, either of which could materially and adversely affect the market for our offshore drilling services, our dayrates or utilization and, accordingly, our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. While we take steps that we believe are appropriate to secure our energy assets, there is no assurance that we can completely secure these assets, completely protect them against a terrorist attack or other political and military events or obtain adequate insurance coverage for such events at reasonable rates.

We may be subject to litigation that could have a material adverse effect on us.

We are, from time to time, involved in various litigation matters. These matters may include, among other things, contract disputes, personal injury claims, environmental claims or proceedings, asbestos and other toxic tort claims, employment and tax matters and other litigation that arises in the ordinary course of our business. Although we intend to defend these matters vigorously, we cannot predict with certainty the outcome or effect of any claim or other litigation matter, and there can be no assurance as to the ultimate outcome of any litigation. Litigation may have a material adverse effect on us because of potential adverse outcomes, defense costs, the diversion of our management's resources and other factors.

Failure to obtain and retain highly skilled personnel could hurt our operations.

We require highly skilled personnel to operate and provide technical services and support for our business. To the extent that demand for drilling services and the size of the worldwide industry fleet increase (including due to the impact of newly constructed rigs), shortages of qualified personnel could arise, creating upward pressure on wages and difficulty in staffing and servicing our rigs, which could adversely affect our results of operations. As of the date of this report, we have three new ultra-deepwater drillships under construction which will require additional skilled personnel to operate. In addition, additional new capacity in the offshore drilling market could cause further competition for qualified and experienced personnel as these entities seek to hire personnel with expertise in the offshore drilling industry. The heightened competition for skilled personnel could materially and adversely impact our financial position, results of operations and cash flows by limiting our operations or further increasing our costs.

Although we have paid special cash dividends in the past, we may not pay special cash dividends in the future and we can give no assurance as to the amount or timing of the payment of any future special cash dividends.

We have adopted a policy to consider paying special cash dividends, in amounts to be determined, on a quarterly basis. Any determination to declare a special cash dividend, as well as the amount of any special cash dividend which may be declared, will be based on our financial position, earnings, earnings outlook, capital spending plans and other factors that our Board of Directors considers relevant at that time. Moreover, our dividend policy may change from time to time. We cannot assure you that we will continue to declare any special cash dividends at all or in any particular amounts. If in the future we pay special cash dividends less frequently or in smaller amounts, or cease to pay any special cash dividends, it could have a negative effect on the market price of our common stock. See "Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities – Dividend Policy" included in Item 5 of this report and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Sources of Liquidity and Capital Resources" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Historical Cash Flows" included in Item 7 of this report.

Table of Contents***Rig conversions, upgrades or new-builds may be subject to delays and cost overruns.***

From time to time we may undertake to add new capacity through conversions or upgrades to our existing rigs or through new construction, such as our three new, ultra-deepwater drillships under construction and our construction of the *Ocean Onyx*. Projects of this type are subject to risks of delay or cost overruns inherent in any large construction project resulting from numerous factors, including the following:

- shortages of equipment, materials or skilled labor;
- work stoppages;
- unscheduled delays in the delivery of ordered materials and equipment;
- unanticipated cost increases;
- weather interferences;
- difficulties in obtaining necessary permits or in meeting permit conditions;
- design and engineering problems;
- customer acceptance delays;
- shipyard failures or unavailability; and
- failure or delay of third party service providers and labor disputes.

Failure to complete a rig upgrade or new construction on time, or failure to complete a rig conversion or new construction in accordance with its design specifications may, in some circumstances, result in the delay, renegotiation or cancellation of a drilling contract, resulting in a loss of contract drilling backlog and revenue to us. If a drilling contract is terminated under these circumstances, we may not be able to secure a replacement contract with equally favorable terms.

We have elected to self-insure for physical damage to rigs and equipment caused by named windstorms in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

Because the amount of insurance coverage available to us is limited, and the cost for such coverage is substantial, we have elected to self-insure for physical damage to rigs and equipment caused by named windstorms in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. This results in a higher risk of losses, which could be material, that are not covered by third party insurance contracts. If one or more named windstorms in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico cause significant damage to our rigs or equipment, it could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

Our debt levels may limit our liquidity and flexibility in obtaining additional financing and in pursuing other business opportunities.

As of December 31, 2011, we had \$1.5 billion in long-term debt. Our ability to meet our debt service obligations is dependent upon our future performance, which is subject to general economic conditions, industry cycles and financial, business and other factors affecting our operations, many of which are beyond our control. Our debt levels and the terms of our indebtedness could potentially limit our liquidity and flexibility in obtaining additional financing, at rates which we consider reasonable or at all, and, thus, could limit our ability to pursue other business opportunities. In addition, our overall debt level and/or market conditions could lead the credit rating agencies to lower our corporate credit ratings. A downgrade in our corporate credit ratings could impact our ability to issue additional debt by raising the cost of issuing new debt. As a consequence, we may not be able to issue additional debt in amounts and/or with terms that we consider to be reasonable. This could limit our ability to pursue other business opportunities.

We are controlled by a single stockholder, which could result in potential conflicts of interest.

Loews Corporation, which we refer to as Loews, beneficially owned approximately 50.4% of our outstanding shares of common stock as of February 16, 2012 and is in a position to control actions that require the consent of stockholders, including the election of directors, amendment of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation and any merger or sale of substantially all of our assets. In addition, three officers of Loews serve on our Board of Directors. One of those, James S. Tisch, the Chairman of the Board of our company, is also the Chief Executive Officer and a director of Loews. We have also entered into a services agreement and a registration rights agreement with Loews and we may in the future enter into other agreements with Loews.

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Loews is a holding company. In addition to us, its principal subsidiaries are CNA Financial Corporation, a 90% owned subsidiary engaged in commercial property and casualty insurance; HighMount Exploration & Production LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary engaged in exploration, production and marketing of natural gas and natural gas liquids; Boardwalk Pipeline Partners, LP, a 61% owned subsidiary engaged in the operation of interstate natural gas transmission pipeline systems; and Loews Hotels Holding Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary engaged in the operation of hotels. It is possible that Loews may in some circumstances be in direct or indirect competition with us, including competition with respect to certain business strategies and transactions that we may propose to undertake. In addition, potential conflicts of interest exist or could arise in the future for our directors who are also officers of Loews with respect to a number of areas relating to the past and ongoing relationships of Loews and us, including tax and insurance matters, financial commitments and sales of common stock pursuant to registration rights or otherwise. Although the affected directors may abstain from voting on matters in which our interests and those of Loews are in conflict so as to avoid potential violations of their fiduciary duties to stockholders, the presence of potential or actual conflicts could affect the process or outcome of Board deliberations. We cannot assure you that these conflicts of interest will not materially adversely affect us.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments.

Not applicable.

Item 2. Properties.

We own an eight-story office building totaling 170,000 square feet on 6.2 acres of land located in Houston, Texas, where our corporate headquarters are located. We also own two buildings totaling 39,000 square feet and 20 acres of land in New Iberia, Louisiana, for our offshore drilling warehouse and storage facility, a 13,000-square foot building and five acres of land in Aberdeen, Scotland, for our North Sea operations, two buildings totaling 77,200 square feet and 11 acres of land in Macae, Brazil, for our South American operations and two buildings totaling 21,000 square feet and two acres of land in Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico, for our Mexican operations. Additionally, we currently lease various office, warehouse and storage facilities in Louisiana, Australia, Indonesia, Norway, Malaysia, Singapore, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Vietnam and the U.K. to support our offshore drilling operations.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings.

Not applicable.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.

Not applicable.

[Table of Contents](#)**PART II****Item 5. Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.****Price Range of Common Stock**

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the symbol "DO." The following table sets forth, for the calendar quarters indicated, the high and low closing prices of our common stock as reported by the NYSE.

	Common Stock	
	High	Low
2011		
First Quarter	\$ 78.96	\$ 64.74
Second Quarter	80.14	66.65
Third Quarter	72.73	54.74
Fourth Quarter	69.25	52.90
2010		
First Quarter	\$ 106.34	\$ 83.23
Second Quarter	93.01	56.94
Third Quarter	68.88	58.18
Fourth Quarter	74.12	63.39

As of February 16, 2012 there were approximately 203 holders of record of our common stock. This number represents registered stockholders and does not include stockholders who hold their shares institutionally.

Dividend Policy

In 2011, we paid regular cash dividends of \$0.125 and special cash dividends of \$0.75 per share of our common stock on February 28, June 1, September 1 and December 1. In 2010, we paid regular cash dividends of \$0.125 per share of our common stock on March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. We also paid special cash dividends in 2010 of \$1.875 per share of our common stock on March 1, \$1.375 per share of our common stock on June 1, and \$0.75 per share of our common stock on September 1 and December 1.

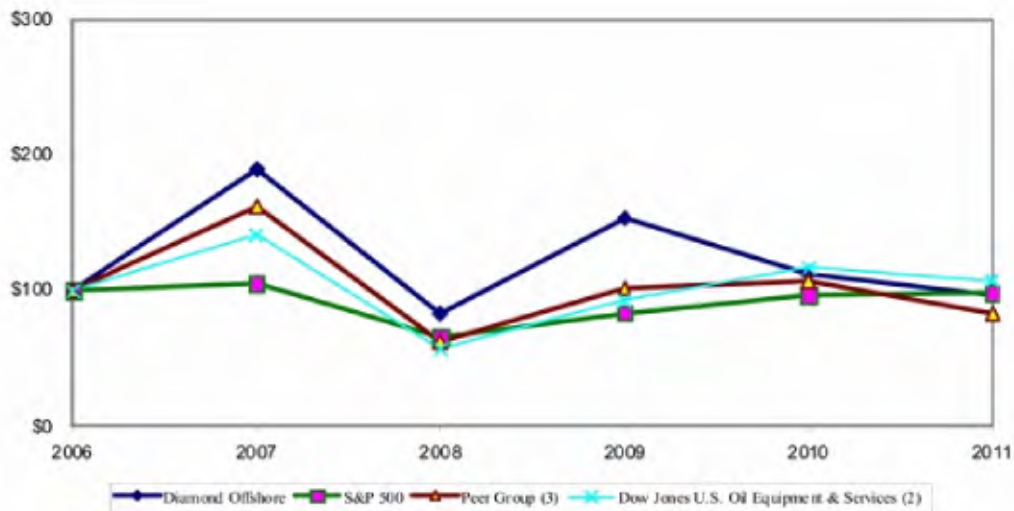
On February 1, 2012, we declared a regular cash dividend and a special cash dividend of \$0.125 and \$0.75, respectively, per share of our common stock. Both the regular and special cash dividends are payable on March 1, 2012 to stockholders of record on February 13, 2012.

We have adopted a policy to consider paying special cash dividends, in amounts to be determined, on a quarterly basis. Any determination to declare a special cash dividend, as well as the amount of any special cash dividend which may be declared, will be based on our financial position, earnings, earnings outlook, capital spending plans and other factors that our Board of Directors considers relevant at that time.

[Table of Contents](#)**CUMULATIVE TOTAL STOCKHOLDER RETURN**

The following graph shows the cumulative total stockholder return for our common stock, the Standard & Poor's 500 Index, a Peer Group Index and the Dow Jones U.S. Oil Equipment & Services over the five year period ended December 31, 2011.

Comparison of 2007 – 2011 Cumulative Total Return (1)



	Dec. 31, 2006	Dec. 31, 2007	Dec. 31, 2008	Dec. 31, 2009	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2011
Diamond Offshore	100	190	83	154	112	97
S&P 500	100	105	66	84	97	99
Dow Jones U.S. Oil Equipment & Services (2)	100	141	57	93	117	108
Peer Group (3)	100	162	62	102	108	84

- (1) Total return assuming reinvestment of dividends. Assumes \$100 invested on December 31, 2006 in our common stock, the two published indices and a peer group index.

Our dividend history for the periods reported above is as follows:

Year	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	
	Regular	Special	Regular	Special	Regular	Special	Regular	Special
2011	\$ 0.125	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.125	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.125	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.125	\$ 0.75
2010	\$ 0.125	\$ 1.875	\$ 0.125	\$ 1.375	\$ 0.125	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.125	\$ 0.75
2009	\$ 0.125	\$ 1.875	\$ 0.125	\$ 1.875	\$ 0.125	\$ 1.875	\$ 0.125	\$ 1.875
2008	\$ 0.125	\$ 1.25	\$ 0.125	\$ 1.25	\$ 0.125	\$ 1.25	\$ 0.125	\$ 1.875
2007	\$ 0.125	\$ 4.00	\$ 0.125	—	\$ 0.125	—	\$ 0.125	\$ 1.25

- (2) We have added the Dow Jones U.S. Oil Equipment & Services index to replace our peer group index. This index represents the oil equipment and services subsector, as defined by Dow Jones indexes, and measures the performance of U.S. companies in this sector.
- (3) The cumulative stockholder return for our peer group index, comprised of Ensco plc, Noble Corporation, Rowan Companies, Inc. and Transocean Ltd, has been presented to compare our total return with both the newly selected index and the peer group index used in the immediately preceding year. Pride International, Inc. is not included in our peer group index due to its 2010 merger with Ensco plc.

[Table of Contents](#)**Item 6. Selected Financial Data.**

The following table sets forth certain historical consolidated financial data relating to Diamond Offshore. We prepared the selected consolidated financial data from our consolidated financial statements as of and for the periods presented. The selected consolidated financial data below should be read in conjunction with “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in Item 7 and our Consolidated Financial Statements (including the Notes thereto) in Item 8 of this report. Historical data for the two annual periods ending on or prior to December 31, 2008 have been restated to reflect the effect thereon of the adoption on January 1, 2009 of an accounting standard that requires all convertible debt securities that may be settled by the issuer fully or partially in cash to be separated into a debt and an equity component. The bifurcation requirement applies to both newly issued debt and debt issuances outstanding for any time during the accounting periods for which financial statements are presented and has been applied retrospectively to the historical periods as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 presented below.

	As of and for the Year Ended December 31,				
	2011	2010	2009	2008 Adjusted	2007 Adjusted
(In thousands, except per share and ratio data)					
Income Statement Data:					
Total revenues	\$3,322,419	\$3,322,974	\$3,631,284	\$3,544,057	\$2,567,723
Operating income	1,255,414	1,425,374	1,903,213	1,910,194	1,223,044
Net income	962,542	955,457	1,376,219	1,310,547	844,464
Net income per share:					
Basic	6.92	6.87	9.90	9.43	6.13
Diluted	6.92	6.87	9.89	9.42	6.11
Balance Sheet Data:					
Drilling and other property and equipment, net	\$4,667,469	\$4,283,792	\$4,432,052	\$3,414,373	\$3,056,300
Total assets	6,964,157	6,726,984	6,264,261	4,954,431	4,357,702
Long-term debt (excluding current maturities)	1,495,823	1,495,593	1,495,375	503,280	503,071
Other Financial Data:					
Capital expenditures	\$ 774,756	\$ 434,262	\$1,362,468	\$ 666,857	\$ 647,877
Cash dividends declared per share	3.50	5.25	8.00	6.13	5.75
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (1)	14.40x	15.35x	37.29x	64.54x	31.16x

- (1) For all periods presented, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges has been computed on a total enterprise basis. Earnings represent pre-tax income from continuing operations plus fixed charges. Fixed charges include (i) interest, whether expensed or capitalized, (ii) amortization of debt issuance costs, whether expensed or capitalized, and (iii) a portion of rent expense, which we believe represents the interest factor attributable to rent.

[Table of Contents](#)**Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.**

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our Consolidated Financial Statements (including the Notes thereto) in Item 8 of this report.

We provide contract drilling services to the energy industry around the globe and are a leader in offshore drilling. Our fleet of 49 offshore drilling rigs consists of 32 semisubmersibles, 13 jack-ups and four dynamically positioned drillships, three of which are under construction with delivery expected in the second and fourth quarters of 2013 and in the second quarter of 2014. In addition, in January 2012, we announced the construction of a moored semisubmersible rig that will be designed to operate in water depths up to 6,000 feet. The rig, to be named the *Ocean Onyx*, will be constructed utilizing the hull of one of our mid-water floaters that previously operated as the *Ocean Voyager*.

Of our fleet, eight rigs are currently cold stacked, consisting of three intermediate semisubmersibles (one in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, or GOM, and two in Malaysia) and five jack-up rigs (four in the GOM and one in Malaysia).

Overview***International Floater Market***

Our floating rigs accounted for approximately 94% of our contract drilling revenue during the 2011. As of the date of this report, industry-wide floater utilization is reported to be greater than 90%, and, as of February 1, 2012, our floating rigs were committed for approximately 75% of the days remaining in 2012 and 54% of 2013.

Internationally, the ultra-deepwater and deepwater floater markets are generally strong and also show signs of further strengthening, particularly in the ultra-deepwater segment where we believe that there are few uncontracted rigs available to work in 2012. However, based on a December 2011 analyst report, there are 49 ultra-deepwater and deepwater floaters under construction, which are expected to enter the market in 2012 and 2013. Many of these floaters, primarily those scheduled for delivery in 2013, are not yet contracted for future work.

Market strength for ultra-deepwater and deepwater rigs varies among geographic regions. Upcoming drilling programs offshore Brazil will require a number of additional ultra-deepwater rigs. This demand may be met by rigs constructed domestically in Brazil, including 33 deepwater floaters ordered by Petrobras. However, additional demand for ultra-deepwater rigs could develop if Brazilian drilling programs, including those of Petrobras, are accelerated prior to delivery of domestically-constructed rigs. In addition, successful exploration and development programs in West Africa have given rise to a robust market for deepwater and ultra-deepwater rigs in that region.

Market strength for mid-water floaters is stable or improving depending on the geographic market. In the North Sea, the mid-water market is strong, with signs of increasing dayrates, and, in the Mediterranean region, demand remains solid. The Southeast Asia and Australia markets also remain steady.

Worldwide Jack-up Market

Four of our marketed jack-up rigs are currently operating in the Mexican waters of the Gulf of Mexico, where drilling activity remains stable and additional tendering activity is ongoing. Of our two remaining marketed international jack-ups, one is currently working in Egypt, and the other, located in Montenegro, is actively seeking work.

GOM Floater and Jack-up Market

Deepwater drilling activity in the GOM, while strengthening, continues to be impacted by the issuance of oil and gas drilling permits for operations on the OCS, which has not yet returned to pre-Macondo levels. In addition, since the Macondo well blowout in 2010 more stringent and encompassing rules for oil and gas operations on the OCS have been implemented. As of the date of this report, we have two actively marketed rigs in the GOM, consisting of one semisubmersible and one jack-up rig. The *Ocean Victory* and *Ocean Columbia* are currently operating in the GOM, both with contract backlog extending into the second quarter of 2012. The construction of our deepwater, moored semisubmersible rig, the *Ocean Onyx*, is taking place in a shipyard in Brownsville, Texas.

[Table of Contents](#)**Contract Drilling Backlog**

The following table reflects our contract drilling backlog as of February 1, 2012, October 17, 2011 (the date reported in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2011) and February 1, 2011 (the date reported in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010). Contract drilling backlog is calculated by multiplying the contracted operating dayrate by the firm contract period and adding one-half of any potential rig performance bonuses. Our calculation also assumes full utilization of our drilling equipment for the contract period (excluding scheduled shipyard and survey days); however, the amount of actual revenue earned and the actual periods during which revenues are earned will be different than the amounts and periods shown in the tables below due to various factors. Utilization rates, which generally approach 92-98% during contracted periods, can be adversely impacted by downtime due to various operating factors including, but not limited to, weather conditions and unscheduled repairs and maintenance. Contract drilling backlog excludes revenues for mobilization, demobilization, contract preparation and customer reimbursables. No revenue is generally earned during periods of downtime for regulatory surveys. Changes in our contract drilling backlog between periods are a function of the performance of work on term contracts, as well as the extension or modification of existing term contracts and the execution of additional contracts.

	February 1, 2012	October 17, 2011	February 1, 2011
	(In thousands)		
Contract Drilling Backlog			
Floaters:			
Ultra-Deepwater ⁽¹⁾	\$4,926,000	\$4,363,000	\$2,269,000
Deepwater ⁽²⁾	1,081,000	1,100,000	1,394,000
Mid-Water ⁽³⁾	2,348,000	2,384,000	2,875,000
Total Floaters	8,355,000	7,847,000	6,538,000
Jack-ups	277,000	290,000	107,000
Total	<u>\$8,632,000</u>	<u>\$8,137,000</u>	<u>\$6,645,000</u>
(1)	Contract drilling backlog as of February 1, 2012 for our ultra-deepwater floaters includes (i) \$1.9 billion attributable to our contracted operations offshore Brazil for the years 2012 to 2015 and (ii) \$1.8 billion attributable to future work for two of our drillships under construction.		
(2)	Contract drilling backlog as of February 1, 2012 for our deepwater floaters includes \$787.0 million attributable to our contracted operations offshore Brazil for the years 2012 to 2016.		
(3)	Contract drilling backlog as of February 1, 2012 for our mid-water floaters includes \$1.6 billion attributable to our contracted operations offshore Brazil for the years 2012 to 2015.		

The following table reflects the amount of our contract drilling backlog by year as of February 1, 2012.

	For the Years Ending December 31,				
	Total	2012	2013	2014	2015 - 2019
	(In thousands)				
Contract Drilling Backlog					
Floaters:					
Ultra-Deepwater ⁽¹⁾	\$4,926,000	\$ 909,000	\$ 959,000	\$1,019,000	\$ 2,039,000
Deepwater ⁽²⁾	1,081,000	470,000	266,000	149,000	196,000
Mid-Water ⁽³⁾	2,348,000	1,086,000	752,000	424,000	86,000
Total Floaters	8,355,000	2,465,000	1,977,000	1,592,000	2,321,000
Jack-ups	277,000	150,000	97,000	30,000	—
Total	<u>\$8,632,000</u>	<u>\$2,615,000</u>	<u>\$2,074,000</u>	<u>\$1,622,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,321,000</u>

(1) Contract drilling backlog as of February 1, 2012 for our ultra-deepwater floaters includes (i) \$507.0 million, \$524.0 million, \$524.0 million and \$324.0 million for the years 2012 to 2015, respectively, attributable to our contracted operations offshore Brazil and (ii) \$29.0 million and \$299.0 million for the years 2013 and 2014, respectively, and \$1.5 billion in the aggregate for the years 2015 to 2019, attributable to future work for two of our drillships under construction.

(2) Contract drilling backlog as of February 1, 2012 for our deepwater floaters includes (i) \$220.0 million, \$222.0 million and \$149.0 million for the years 2012 to 2014, respectively, and \$196.0 million in the aggregate for the years 2015 to 2016, attributable to our contracted operations offshore Brazil.

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- (3) Contract drilling backlog as of February 1, 2012 for our mid-water floaters includes (i) \$631.0 million, \$477.0 million, \$368.0 million and \$86.0 million for the years 2012 to 2015, respectively, attributable to our contracted operations offshore Brazil.

The following table reflects the percentage of rig days committed by year as of February 1, 2012. The percentage of rig days committed is calculated as the ratio of total days committed under contracts, as well as scheduled shipyard, survey and mobilization days for all rigs in our fleet, to total available days (number of rigs multiplied by the number of days in a particular year). Total available days have been calculated based on the expected final commissioning dates for the *Ocean BlackHawk*, *Ocean BlackHornet*, *Ocean BlackRhino* and the *Ocean Onyx*, which are all under construction.

Rig Days Committed ⁽¹⁾	For the Years Ending December 31,			
	2012	2013	2014	2015 - 2019
Floaters:				
Ultra-Deepwater	96%	89%	70%	23%
Deepwater	80%	43%	19%	5%
Mid-Water	65%	43%	22%	1%
All Floaters	75%	54%	35%	8%
Jack-ups	34%	21%	7%	—

- (1) As of February 1, 2012, includes approximately 1,100 and 500 currently known, scheduled shipyard, survey and mobilization days for 2012 and 2013, respectively.

General

The two most significant variables affecting our revenues are dayrates for rigs and rig utilization rates, each of which is a function of rig supply and demand in the marketplace. Demand for drilling services is dependent upon the level of expenditures set by oil and gas companies for offshore exploration and development, as well as a variety of political, regulatory and economic factors. The availability of rigs in a particular geographical region also affects both dayrates and utilization rates. These factors are not within our control and are difficult to predict.

Demand affects the number of days our fleet is utilized and the dayrates earned. As utilization rates increase, dayrates tend to increase as well, reflecting the lower supply of available rigs. Conversely, as utilization rates decrease, dayrates tend to decrease as well, reflecting the excess supply of rigs. When a rig is idle, no dayrate is earned and revenues will decrease as a result. Revenues can also be affected as a result of the acquisition or disposal of rigs, required surveys and shipyard upgrades. In order to improve utilization or realize higher dayrates, we may mobilize our rigs from one market to another. However, during periods of mobilization, revenues may be adversely affected. As a response to changes in demand, we may withdraw a rig from the market by stacking it or may reactivate a rig stacked previously, which may decrease or increase revenues, respectively.

We recognize revenue from dayrate drilling contracts as services are performed. In connection with such drilling contracts, we may receive fees (either lump-sum or dayrate) for the mobilization of equipment. We earn these fees as services are performed over the initial term of the related drilling contracts. We defer mobilization fees received, as well as direct and incremental mobilization costs incurred, and amortize each, on a straight-line basis, over the term of the related drilling contracts (which is the period we estimate to be benefited from the mobilization activity). Straight-line amortization of mobilization revenues and related costs over the term of the related drilling contracts (which generally range from two to 60 months) is consistent with the timing of net cash flows generated from the actual drilling services performed. Absent a contract, mobilization costs are recognized currently.

From time to time, we may receive fees from our customers for capital improvements to our rigs (either lump-sum or dayrate). We defer such fees and recognize them into income on a straight-line basis over the period of the related drilling contract as a component of contract drilling revenue. We capitalize the costs of such capital improvements and depreciate them over the estimated useful life of the improvement.

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As a result of anticipated downtime in the current year for rig mobilizations, regulatory surveys and shipyard projects, we expect contract drilling revenue in 2012 to decline from the levels attained in 2011. We also expect contract drilling revenue for some of our rigs to be lower as these rigs fulfill term commitments under contracts at lower dayrates than previously earned in 2011 and may not be able to benefit from higher dayrates that the market is currently bearing. See “Risk Factors – *The terms of our drilling contracts may limit our ability to attain profitability in a declining market or to benefit from increasing dayrates in an improving market*” in Item 1A of this report.

We receive reimbursements for the purchase of supplies, equipment, personnel services and other services provided at the request of our customers in accordance with a contract or agreement. We record these reimbursements at the gross amount billed to the customer as “Revenues related to reimbursable expenses” in our Consolidated Statements of Operations included in Item 8 of this report.

Operating Income. Our operating income is primarily affected by revenue factors, but is also a function of varying levels of operating expenses. Our operating expenses represent all direct and indirect costs associated with the operation and maintenance of our drilling equipment. The principal components of our operating costs are, among other things, direct and indirect costs of labor and benefits, repairs and maintenance, freight, regulatory inspections, boat and helicopter rentals and insurance. Labor and repair and maintenance costs represent the most significant components of our operating expenses. In general, our labor costs increase primarily due to higher salary levels, rig staffing requirements and costs associated with labor regulations in the geographic regions in which our rigs operate. In addition, the costs associated with training new and seasoned employees can be significant. We expect our labor and training costs to increase in 2012 as a result of increased hiring and training activities as we continue the process of crewing three new drillships. Costs to repair and maintain our equipment fluctuate depending upon the type of activity the drilling unit is performing, as well as the age and condition of the equipment and the regions in which our rigs are working.

Our operating costs are also impacted by the regulatory environments in which we operate. The adoption of new regulations could result in additional inspection and certification costs, as well as require additional capital investment to comply with regulatory requirements. Accordingly, we cannot fully predict the financial impact of any new regulations that may arise relating to drilling activities in the GOM, or elsewhere in the world. New laws or regulations may require an increase in our capital spending for additional equipment to comply with such requirements. Our business could be negatively impacted by additional downtime which may be required to obtain necessary equipment and to install such equipment or to obtain the required inspections or certifications as prescribed under such regulations.

Operating expenses generally are not affected by changes in dayrates, and short-term reductions in utilization do not necessarily result in lower operating expenses. For instance, if a rig is to be idle for a short period of time, few decreases in operating expenses may actually occur since the rig is typically maintained in a prepared or “warm stacked” state with a full crew. In addition, when a rig is idle, we are responsible for certain operating expenses such as rig fuel and supply boat costs, which are typically costs of the operator when a rig is under contract. However, if the rig is to be idle for an extended period of time, we may reduce the size of a rig’s crew and take steps to “cold stack” the rig, which lowers expenses and partially offsets the impact on operating income. We recognize, as incurred, operating expenses related to activities such as inspections, painting projects and routine overhauls that meet certain criteria and which maintain rather than upgrade our rigs. These expenses vary from period to period. Costs of rig enhancements are capitalized and depreciated over the expected useful lives of the enhancements. Higher depreciation expense decreases operating income in periods following capital upgrades.

Our operating income is negatively impacted when we perform certain regulatory inspections, which we refer to as a 5-year survey, or special survey, that are due every five years for each of our rigs. Operating revenue decreases because these special surveys are performed during scheduled downtime in a shipyard. Operating expenses increase as a result of these special surveys due to the cost to mobilize the rigs to a shipyard, inspection costs incurred and repair and maintenance costs. Repair and maintenance activities may result from the special survey or may have been previously planned to take place during this mandatory downtime. The number of rigs undergoing a 5-year survey will vary from year to year, as well as from quarter to quarter.

In addition, operating income may be negatively impacted by intermediate surveys, which are performed at interim periods between 5-year surveys. Intermediate surveys are generally less extensive in duration and scope than a 5-year survey. Although an intermediate survey may require some downtime for the drilling rig, it normally does not require dry-docking or shipyard time, except for rigs located in the U.K. and Norwegian sectors of the North Sea.

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During 2012, 11 of our rigs will require 5-year surveys and one of our U.K. rigs will require dry-docking for inspections. We expect these 12 rigs to be out of service for approximately 660 days in the aggregate. We also expect to spend an additional approximately 440 days during 2012 for intermediate surveys, the mobilization of rigs, contract acceptance testing and extended maintenance projects. We can provide no assurance as to the exact timing and/or duration of downtime associated with regulatory inspections, planned rig mobilizations and other shipyard projects. See “ – Overview – Contract Drilling Backlog.”

We are self-insured for physical damage to rigs and equipment caused by named windstorms in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. If a named windstorm in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico causes significant damage to our rigs or equipment, it could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. Under our insurance policy that expires on May 1, 2012, we carry physical damage insurance for certain losses other than those caused by named windstorms in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico for which our deductible for physical damage is \$25.0 million per occurrence. We do not typically retain loss-of-hire insurance policies to cover our rigs.

In addition, under our insurance policy that expires on May 1, 2012, we carry marine liability insurance covering certain legal liabilities, including coverage for certain personal injury claims, with no exclusions for pollution and/or environmental risk. We believe that the policy limit for our marine liability insurance is within the range that is customary for companies of our size in the offshore drilling industry and is appropriate for our business. Our deductibles for marine liability coverage, including for personal injury claims, are \$10.0 million for the first occurrence and vary in amounts ranging between \$5.0 million and, if aggregate claims exceed certain thresholds, up to \$100.0 million for each subsequent occurrence, depending on the nature, severity and frequency of claims which might arise during the policy year, which under the current policy commences on May 1 of each year.

Construction and Capital Upgrade Projects. We capitalize interest cost for the construction and upgrade of qualifying assets in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S., or GAAP. The period of interest capitalization covers the duration of the activities required to make the asset ready for its intended use, and the capitalization period ends when the asset is substantially complete and ready for its intended use. For the year ended December 31, 2011, we capitalized interest of \$11.2 million on qualifying expenditures related to the construction of our three new drillships, beginning in August 2011. In addition, during 2012, we also expect to capitalize interest related to the construction of the *Ocean Onyx*.

Critical Accounting Estimates

Our significant accounting policies are included in Note 1 “General Information” to our Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report. Judgments, assumptions and estimates by our management are inherent in the preparation of our financial statements and the application of our significant accounting policies. We believe that our most critical accounting estimates are as follows:

Property, Plant and Equipment. We carry our drilling and other property and equipment at cost. Maintenance and routine repairs are charged to income currently while replacements and betterments, which upgrade or increase the functionality of our existing equipment and that significantly extend the useful life of an existing asset, are capitalized. Significant judgments, assumptions and estimates may be required in determining whether or not such replacements and betterments meet the criteria for capitalization and in determining useful lives and salvage values of such assets. Changes in these judgments, assumptions and estimates could produce results that differ from those reported. Historically, the amount of capital additions requiring significant judgments, assumptions or estimates has not been significant. During the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, we capitalized \$269.5 million and \$379.8 million, respectively, in replacements and betterments of our drilling fleet, resulting from numerous projects ranging from \$25,000 to \$50 million per project.

We evaluate our property and equipment for impairment whenever changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable (such as cold stacking a rig or excess spending over budget on a newbuild, construction project or major rig upgrade). We utilize a probability-weighted cash flow analysis in testing an asset for potential impairment. Our assumptions and estimates underlying this analysis include the following:

- dayrate by rig;
- utilization rate by rig (expressed as the actual percentage of time per year that the rig would be used);
- the per day operating cost for each rig if active, warm stacked or cold-stacked;
- the estimated annual cost for rig replacements and/or enhancement programs;

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- the estimated maintenance, inspection or other costs associated with a rig returning to work;
- salvage value for each rig; and
- estimated proceeds that may be received on disposition of the rig.

Based on these assumptions and estimates, we develop a matrix using several different utilization/dayrate scenarios, to each of which we have assigned a probability of occurrence. The sum of our utilization scenarios (which include active, warm stacked and cold stacked) and probability of occurrence scenarios both equal 100% in the aggregate. We reevaluate our cold-stacked rigs annually, and we update the matrices for each of our cold stacked rigs at each year end and modify our assumptions giving consideration to the length of time the rig has been cold stacked, the current and expected market for the type of rig and expectations of future oil and gas prices. Further, to test sensitivity, we consider the impact of a 5% reduction in assumed dayrates for the cold-stacked rigs (holding all other assumptions and estimates in the model constant). We would not necessarily record an impairment if the sensitivity analysis indicated potential cash flows would be insufficient to recover our carrying value. We would assess other qualitative factors including industry, regulatory and other relevant conditions to determine whether an impairment or further disclosure is warranted.

A summary of our cold stacked rigs evaluated for impairment at December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was as follows:

	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In millions, except number of rigs)		
Mid-Water semisubmersibles	3	3	1
Jack-ups	5	4	3
Total	8	7	4
Aggregate net book value	\$76.5	\$78.0	\$20.2

We performed an impairment review for each of these rigs using the methodology described above. Based on our analyses, we concluded that these eight, seven and four rigs were not subject to impairment at December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Management's assumptions are an inherent part of our asset impairment evaluation and the use of different assumptions could produce results that differ from those reported.

Personal Injury Claims. Our deductibles for liability coverage for personal injury claims, which primarily result from Jones Act liability in the Gulf of Mexico, is \$10.0 million per the first occurrence, with no aggregate deductible, and vary in amounts ranging between \$5.0 million and, if aggregate claims exceed certain thresholds, up to \$100.0 million for each subsequent occurrence, depending on the nature, severity and frequency of claims which might arise during the policy year. The Jones Act is a federal law that permits seamen to seek compensation for certain injuries during the course of their employment on a vessel and governs the liability of vessel operators and marine employers for the work-related injury or death of an employee. We engage outside consultants to assist us in estimating our aggregate liability for personal injury claims based on our historical losses and utilizing various actuarial models.

The models used in estimating our aggregate reserve for personal injury claims include actuarial assumptions such as:

- claim emergence, or the delay between occurrence and recording of claims;
- settlement patterns, or the rates at which claims are closed;
- development patterns, or the rate at which known cases develop to their ultimate level;
- average, potential frequency and severity of claims; and
- effect of re-opened claims.

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The eventual settlement or adjudication of these claims could differ materially from our estimated amounts due to uncertainties such as:

- the severity of personal injuries claimed;
- significant changes in the volume of personal injury claims;
- the unpredictability of legal jurisdictions where the claims will ultimately be litigated;
- inconsistent court decisions; and
- the risks and lack of predictability inherent in personal injury litigation.

Income Taxes. We account for income taxes in accordance with accounting standards that require the recognition of the amount of taxes payable or refundable for the current year and an asset and liability approach in recognizing the amount of deferred tax liabilities and assets for the future tax consequences of events that have been currently recognized in our financial statements or tax returns. In each of our tax jurisdictions we recognize a current tax liability or asset for the estimated taxes payable or refundable on tax returns for the current year and a deferred tax asset or liability for the estimated future tax effects attributable to temporary differences and carryforwards. Deferred tax assets are reduced by a valuation allowance, if necessary, which is determined by the amount of any tax benefits that, based on available evidence, are not expected to be realized under a “more likely than not” approach. We do not establish deferred tax liabilities for certain of our foreign earnings that we intend to indefinitely reinvest to finance foreign activities. However, if these earnings become subject to U.S. federal tax, any required provision could have a material impact on our financial results. We make judgments regarding future events and related estimates especially as they pertain to the forecasting of our effective tax rate, the potential realization of deferred tax assets such as utilization of foreign tax credits, and exposure to the disallowance of items deducted on tax returns upon audit.

Certain of our international rigs are owned and operated, directly or indirectly, by Diamond Offshore International Limited, or DOIL, a Cayman Islands subsidiary which we wholly own. It is our intention to indefinitely reinvest future earnings of DOIL and its foreign subsidiaries to finance foreign activities. Accordingly, we have not made a provision for U.S. income taxes on approximately \$1.7 billion of undistributed foreign earnings and profits. Although we do not intend to repatriate the earnings of DOIL and have not provided U.S. income taxes for such earnings, except to the extent that such earnings were immediately subject to U.S. income taxes, these earnings could become subject to U.S. income tax if remitted, or if deemed remitted as a dividend; however, it is not practicable to estimate this potential liability.

In several of the international locations in which we operate, certain of our wholly-owned subsidiaries enter into agreements with other of our wholly-owned subsidiaries to provide specialized services and equipment in support of our foreign operations. We apply a transfer pricing methodology to determine the amount to be charged for providing the services and equipment, and utilize outside consultants to assist us in the development of such transfer pricing methodologies. In most cases, there are alternative transfer pricing methodologies that could be applied to these transactions and, if applied, could result in different chargeable amounts.

We record interest related to accrued unrecognized tax positions in interest expense and recognize penalties associated with uncertain tax positions in our tax expense.

[Table of Contents](#)**Results of Operations**

Although we perform contract drilling services with different types of drilling rigs and in many geographic locations, there is a similarity of economic characteristics among all our divisions and locations, including the nature of services provided and the type of customers for our services. We believe that the combination of our drilling rigs into one reportable segment is the appropriate aggregation in accordance with applicable accounting standards on segment reporting. However, for purposes of this discussion and analysis of our results of operations, we provide greater detail with respect to the types of rigs in our fleet to enhance the reader's understanding of our financial condition, changes in financial condition and results of operations.

Key performance indicators by equipment type are listed below.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
REVENUE EARNING DAYS ⁽¹⁾			
Floaters:			
Ultra-Deepwater	2,387	1,873	2,030
Deepwater	1,718	1,342	1,298
Mid-Water	5,254	5,800	6,197
Jack-ups	2,218	3,028	3,382
UTILIZATION ⁽²⁾			
Floaters:			
Ultra-Deepwater	82%	66%	85%
Deepwater	94%	74%	71%
Mid-Water	72%	79%	85%
Jack-ups	47%	61%	66%
AVERAGE DAILY REVENUE ⁽³⁾			
Floaters:			
Ultra-Deepwater	\$342,900	\$358,400	\$367,000
Deepwater	416,500	401,900	401,900
Mid-Water	269,600	281,000	287,900
Jack-ups	81,900	87,700	127,300

⁽¹⁾ A revenue earning day is defined as a 24-hour period during which a rig earns a dayrate after commencement of operations and excludes mobilization, demobilization and contract preparation days.

⁽²⁾ Utilization is calculated as the ratio of total revenue-earning days divided by the total calendar days in the period for all of the specified rigs in our fleet (including cold-stacked rigs).

⁽³⁾ Average daily revenue is defined as contract drilling revenue for all of the specified rigs in our fleet (excluding revenues for mobilization, demobilization and contract preparation) per revenue earning day.

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Comparative data relating to our revenues and operating expenses by equipment type are listed below.

Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
CONTRACT DRILLING REVENUE			
Floaters:			
Ultra-Deepwater	\$ 841,565	\$ 718,426	\$ 746,050
Deepwater	733,037	564,315	525,877
Mid-Water	1,482,032	1,678,793	1,807,428
Total Floaters	3,056,634	2,961,534	3,079,355
Jack-ups	197,534	267,983	457,224
Other	145	219	—
Total Contract Drilling Revenue	\$3,254,313	\$3,229,736	\$3,536,579
Revenues Related to Reimbursable Expenses	\$ 68,106	\$ 93,238	\$ 94,705
CONTRACT DRILLING EXPENSE			
Floaters:			
Ultra-Deepwater	\$ 492,816	\$ 320,358	\$ 209,336
Deepwater	227,733	219,685	172,918
Mid-Water	632,755	641,660	582,583
Total Floaters	1,353,304	1,181,703	964,837
Jack-ups	169,229	190,167	235,924
Other	25,969	19,216	23,010
Total Contract Drilling Expense	\$1,548,502	\$1,391,086	\$1,223,771
Reimbursable Expenses	\$ 66,052	\$ 91,240	\$ 93,097
OPERATING INCOME			
Floaters:			
Ultra-Deepwater	\$ 348,749	\$ 398,068	\$ 536,714
Deepwater	505,304	344,630	352,959
Mid-Water	849,277	1,037,133	1,224,845
Total Floaters	1,703,330	1,779,831	2,114,518
Jack-ups	28,305	77,816	221,300
Other	(25,824)	(18,997)	(23,010)
Reimbursable expenses, net	2,054	1,998	1,608
Depreciation	(398,612)	(393,177)	(346,446)
General and administrative expense	(65,310)	(66,600)	(62,913)
Bad debt recovery (expense)	6,713	9,789	(9,746)
Gain on disposition of assets	4,758	34,714	7,902
Total Operating Income	\$1,255,414	\$1,425,374	\$1,903,213
Other income (expense):			
Interest income	6,668	2,909	4,497
Interest expense	(73,137)	(90,698)	(49,610)
Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	(8,588)	1,369	11,483
Other, net	(1,086)	(2,938)	(1,152)
Income before income tax expense	1,179,271	1,336,016	1,868,431
Income tax expense	(216,729)	(380,559)	(492,212)
NET INCOME	\$ 962,542	\$ 955,457	\$1,376,219

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The following is a summary of the most significant transfers of our rigs during 2009, 2010 and 2011 between the geographic areas in which we operate:

<u>Rig</u>	<u>Rig Type</u>	<u>Relocation Details</u>	<u>Date</u>
Floater:			
<i>Ocean Monarch</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	Completion of major upgrade and relocation from Singapore shipyard to GOM	March 2009
<i>Ocean Baroness</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	GOM to Brazil	March 2010
<i>Ocean Courage</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	GOM to Brazil	March 2010
<i>Ocean Valor</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	Completion of construction and relocation from Singapore shipyard to Brazil	March 2010
<i>Ocean Endeavor</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	GOM to Egypt	August 2010
<i>Ocean Confidence</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	GOM to the Republic of Congo	August 2010
<i>Ocean Monarch</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	GOM to Vietnam	September 2011
<i>Ocean Valiant</i>	Deepwater	GOM to Angola	July 2009
<i>Ocean Star</i>	Deepwater	GOM to Brazil	January 2010
<i>Ocean America</i>	Deepwater	GOM to Australia	March 2010
<i>Ocean Quest</i>	Mid-Water	GOM to Brazil	February 2009
<i>Ocean Ambassador</i>	Mid-Water	GOM to Brazil	June 2009
<i>Ocean Bounty</i>	Mid-Water	Cold stacked (Malaysia)	July 2009
<i>Ocean Lexington</i>	Mid-Water	Egypt to Brazil	September 2009
<i>Ocean Guardian</i>	Mid-Water	North Sea to the Falkland Islands	November 2009
<i>Ocean Voyager</i>	Mid-Water	Mexico to GOM (cold stacked June 2010)	March 2010
<i>Ocean New Era</i>	Mid-Water	Mexico to GOM (cold stacked September 2010)	August 2010
<i>Ocean Epoch</i>	Mid-Water	Cold stacked (Malaysia)	February 2011
<i>Ocean Yorktown</i>	Mid-Water	Brazil to GOM	August 2011
<i>Ocean Yorktown</i>	Mid-Water	GOM to Mexico	December 2011
Jack-ups:			
<i>Ocean Champion</i>	Jack-up	Cold stacked (GOM)	June 2009
<i>Ocean Crusader</i>	Jack-up	Cold stacked (GOM)	June 2009
<i>Ocean Drake</i>	Jack-up	Cold stacked (GOM)	June 2009
<i>Ocean Summit</i>	Jack-up	GOM to Mexico	July 2009
<i>Ocean Columbia</i>	Jack-up	Mexico to GOM	November 2009
<i>Ocean Scepter</i>	Jack-up	Argentina to GOM	December 2009
<i>Ocean Shield</i>	Jack-up	Sold	July 2010
<i>Ocean Scepter</i>	Jack-up	GOM to Brazil	August 2010
<i>Ocean Spartan</i>	Jack-up	Cold stacked (GOM)	September 2010
<i>Ocean Sovereign</i>	Jack-up	Cold stacked (Malaysia)	October 2011
<i>Ocean Scepter</i>	Jack-up	Brazil to GOM	October 2011
<i>Ocean Titan</i>	Jack-up	GOM to Mexico	November 2011
<i>Ocean Scepter</i>	Jack-up	GOM to Mexico	December 2011

Overview**2011 Compared to 2010**

Operating Income. Total operating income in 2011 decreased \$170.0 million, or 12%, compared to 2010, despite a \$24.6 million, or 1%, increase in total contract drilling revenue during 2011. Revenue generated by our floater rigs increased an aggregate \$95.1 million, or 3%, in 2011 compared to 2010, while revenue generated by our jack-up fleet declined \$70.4 million or 26%. Except for our deepwater floaters, average daily revenue earned by our other rigs during 2011 compared unfavorably to the levels attained in 2010. Utilization for our ultra-deepwater and deepwater floaters increased significantly in 2011 compared to 2010; however, utilization for our mid-water floater and jack-ups fleets decreased in 2011. One additional mid-water floater and one jack-up rig were cold stacked during 2011. Our two newest floaters, the *Ocean Courage* and *Ocean Valor*, which began operating under contract late in the first quarter and in the fourth quarter of 2010, respectively, contributed incremental revenue of \$162.0 million during 2011.

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Total contract drilling expense increased \$157.4 million, or 11%, during 2011 compared to 2010, reflecting incremental contract drilling expense for the *Ocean Courage* and *Ocean Valor*, higher amortized mobilization costs and higher other operating costs associated with rigs operating internationally rather than domestically.

Other significant factors that affected the comparability of our operating income for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 were as follows:

- *Bad Debt Recovery (Expense)*. During 2011, we recorded a \$5.7 million provision for bad debts to reserve a portion of the uncollected balance of receivables related to our operations in Egypt and recovered \$12.3 million in previously recorded reserves for bad debts. During 2010, we recovered \$5.6 million and \$4.2 million related to previously established reserves for bad debts related to our operations in Egypt and the U.K., respectively.
- *Gain on Disposition of Assets*. During 2011, we recognized an aggregate \$4.8 million gain on the disposition of assets, primarily related to the sale of used equipment, compared to an aggregate \$34.7 million net gain recognized in the prior year. During 2010, we sold the *Ocean Shield* for net proceeds of \$183.3 million and recognized a net gain on sale of \$32.8 million.

Interest Expense. Interest expense decreased \$17.6 million in 2011 compared to 2010, primarily due to \$11.2 million of interest capitalized in 2011 on our three drillships under construction. In addition, during 2011, we recorded \$0.2 million of interest expense related to uncertain tax positions compared to \$4.8 million during 2010.

Income Tax Expense. Our effective tax rate for 2011 was 18.4%, compared to a 28.5% effective tax rate for 2010. The lower effective tax rate in the current year is primarily the result of differences in the mix of our domestic and international pre-tax earnings and losses, as well as the mix of international tax jurisdictions in which we operate. As our rigs frequently operate in different tax jurisdictions as they move from contract to contract, our effective tax rate can fluctuate substantially and our historical effective tax rates may not be sustainable and could increase materially.

Also contributing to our lower effective tax rate in 2011, compared to the prior year, was the impact of a tax law provision that expired at the end of 2009 but was subsequently signed back into law in December 2010. This provision allows us to defer recognition of certain foreign earnings for U.S. tax purposes. The extension of this tax law provision, and our decisions to build three new drillships overseas, caused us to reassess our intent to repatriate certain foreign earnings to the U.S. We now plan to reinvest these earnings internationally, and consequently, we are no longer providing U.S. income taxes on these earnings. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we reversed the \$15.0 million of U.S. income taxes that had been provided in 2010 for these earnings.

On December 31, 2011, the statute of limitations relative to a 2006 uncertain tax position in Brazil expired. As a consequence, in 2011 we reversed \$1.1 million of previously accrued interest expense and \$5.7 million of previously accrued tax expense, \$2.0 million of which had been accrued for penalties. During 2010, we accrued approximately \$35.7 million of expense for uncertain tax positions, primarily in Mexico and Brazil, of which \$4.8 million was interest and \$12.0 million was penalty related.

2010 Compared to 2009

Operating Income. Operating income in 2010 decreased \$477.8 million, or 25%, compared to 2009. Our operating results were negatively impacted by a decline in average daily revenue earned by our rigs in 2010 from the levels attained in 2009. While our contracted revenue backlog enabled us to partially mitigate the impact of the weakened market conditions at the time, our total contract drilling revenue decreased \$306.8 million, or 9%, compared to 2009. Revenue generated by our floater fleet decreased an aggregate \$117.8 million, or 4%, and revenue for our jack-up fleet decreased \$189.2 million, or 41%, during 2010 compared to the previous year. During 2010, we cold stacked three additional rigs in the GOM, consisting of two mid-water floaters that returned from Mexico during the year and one jack-up rig. However, the *Ocean Courage* and *Ocean Valor*, which commenced drilling operations during 2010, contributed \$109.3 million to our revenue during 2010. Total contract drilling expense increased \$167.3 million, or 14%, in 2010 compared to 2009, and included normal operating costs for the *Ocean Courage* and *Ocean Valor*, as well as increased amortized mobilization costs and higher other operating costs associated with rigs operating internationally rather than domestically.

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Other significant factors that affected the comparability of our operating income for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 were as follows:

- *Bad Debt Expense.* During 2010, we recovered \$9.7 million in previously established reserves for bad debts related to our operations in Egypt and the U.K. During 2009, we recorded a \$10.7 million provision for bad debts to reserve a portion of the uncollected balance of receivables related to our operations in Egypt and recovered \$0.9 million related to a previously established reserve for bad debt recorded in 2008 related to our operations in the U.K.
- *Depreciation Expense.* Depreciation expense increased \$46.7 million, or 13%, during 2010 compared to 2009, primarily due to depreciation associated with capital additions in 2009 and 2010, and included depreciation expense for the *Ocean Courage* and *Ocean Valor*, which were placed in service in September 2009 and March 2010, respectively.
- *Gain on Disposition of Assets.* Net gain on disposition of assets in 2010 was primarily related to the sale of the *Ocean Shield*. Net gain on disposition of assets in 2009 included a \$6.7 million gain on the sale of the *Ocean Tower*, which was damaged during a hurricane in 2008.

Interest Expense. Interest expense increased \$41.1 million in 2010 compared to 2009, primarily due to a full year of interest expense in 2010 for our 5.875% Senior Notes due 2019, or 5.875% Senior Notes, and our 5.70% Senior Notes due 2039, or 5.70% Senior Notes, issued in May 2009 and October 2009, respectively (\$31.9 million). In addition, during 2010, we recorded \$4.8 million in interest expense related to uncertain tax positions compared to a \$3.4 million net reduction, during 2009, of accrued interest expense related to an uncertain tax position for which the statute of limitations had expired.

Foreign Currency Transaction Gain (Loss). During 2009, we recognized net foreign currency exchange gains of \$11.5 million, which included \$8.9 million in realized and unrealized gains on foreign currency forward exchange, or FOREX, contracts (\$37.3 million in net unrealized gains from mark-to-market accounting and \$28.4 million in net realized losses on settled FOREX contracts not designated as accounting hedges). During 2010, we designated all of our FOREX contracts as accounting hedges and, as such, gains and losses on the settlement of these hedged contracts were recorded as a component of operating expenses under "Contract drilling, excluding depreciation."

Income Tax Expense. Our income tax expense is a function of the mix between our domestic and international pre-tax earnings or losses, as well as the mix of international tax jurisdictions in which we operate. We recognized \$380.6 million of tax expense on pre-tax income of \$1.3 billion for the year ended December 31, 2010 compared to tax expense of \$492.2 million on pre-tax income of \$1.9 billion in 2009. The effective annual tax rate of 28.5% in 2010 compared unfavorably to the effective annual tax rate of 26.3% in 2009 primarily due to higher taxes for income tax contingencies, as well as taxes associated with the sale of the *Ocean Shield*.

During 2010, we accrued approximately \$35.7 million of expense for uncertain tax positions, primarily in Mexico and Brazil, of which \$4.8 million was interest and \$12.0 million was penalty related.

On March 31, 2009, the statute of limitations relative to a 2003 uncertain tax position in Mexico expired. As a consequence, we reversed \$5.5 million of previously accrued interest expense and \$5.9 million of previously accrued tax expense, \$0.8 million of which had been accrued for penalties.

[Table of Contents](#)**Contract Drilling Revenue and Expense by Equipment Type****2011 Compared to 2010**

Ultra-Deepwater Floaters. Revenue generated by our ultra-deepwater floaters increased \$123.1 million during 2011 compared to 2010. Our newest rigs, the *Ocean Courage* and *Ocean Valor*, were under contract in Brazil for all of 2011 and worked a combined 353 incremental revenue earning days, compared to 2010, generating \$162.0 million in incremental revenue. However, aggregate revenue earned by our six other ultra-deepwater rigs decreased \$38.9 million in 2011 compared to 2010, due to a reduction in average daily revenue earned (\$71.5 million), partially offset by an increase in revenue earning days (\$57.2 million) due to the absence of downtime in 2011 associated with the relocation of the *Ocean Endeavor*, *Ocean Confidence* and *Ocean Baroness* from the GOM to international locations in the previous year. In addition, 2011 revenue was unfavorably impacted by the absence of a \$30.7 million contract termination fee earned by the *Ocean Endeavor* in July 2010, partially offset by higher recognition of mobilization revenue during 2011 (\$6.1 million). Contract drilling expense for our ultra-deepwater floaters increased \$172.5 million in 2011 compared to 2010, and included \$75.4 million in incremental contract drilling expense from the operation of the *Ocean Courage* and *Ocean Valor*, \$16.6 million in incremental mobilization expenses, and higher overall contract drilling expenses for the remainder of our fleet, including personnel related, maintenance and hull insurance costs, as well as higher costs associated with operating rigs internationally, such as freight, non-income based taxes, revenue-based agency fees and shorebase support costs.

Deepwater Floaters. Revenue generated by our deepwater floaters increased \$168.7 million in 2011 compared to 2010, primarily due to 376 additional revenue earning days (\$151.5 million) and an increase in average daily revenue earned (\$25.1 million). The increase in revenue earning days in 2011 resulted from 209 fewer non-operating days for repairs, inspections and contract preparation activities, 87 fewer rig mobilization days and 80 fewer days in which rigs were warm stacked between contracts, compared to the prior year. The increase in revenue was partially offset by the recognition of less amortized mobilization revenue in 2011 compared to the prior year (\$7.8 million). Contract drilling expense increased \$8.0 million in 2011, compared to the prior year, primarily due to the *Ocean America* operating offshore Australia for all of 2011, compared to the prior year when the rig did not commence drilling operations until June 2010 (\$27.3 million). Higher incremental contract drilling expense was partially offset by a \$16.1 million reduction in recognized mobilization costs due to the full amortization of previously deferred costs as rigs completed their initial contracts and the absence of mobilization costs associated with the *Ocean Alliance's* shipyard project in 2010.

Mid-Water Floaters. Revenue generated by our mid-water floaters decreased \$196.8 million in 2011 compared to 2010, primarily due to 546 fewer revenue earning days (\$153.4 million) combined with a decrease in average daily revenue earned (\$59.3 million) in 2011. The decrease in revenue earning days was primarily attributable to 963 additional cold stacked days in 2011 compared to 2010, partially offset by fewer warm stacked days between contracts (282 fewer days), unpaid downtime for repairs (84 fewer days) and rig mobilization days (51 fewer days). The decline in revenue was partially offset by higher mobilization fees recognized during 2011 (\$15.9 million) compared to 2010, primarily due to a \$24.0 million demobilization fee earned by the *Ocean Yorktown* upon completion of its contract offshore Brazil. Contract drilling expense decreased \$8.9 million during 2011 compared to 2010. Contributing to the overall decrease in contract drilling expense between periods was a \$67.6 million reduction in costs associated with cold stacked rigs, partially offset by higher contract drilling expense for our actively-marketed fleet of 16 mid-water floaters. Cost increases in 2011, compared to 2010, included personnel-related costs (\$21.7 million), repairs and maintenance expenses (\$4.3 million), shorebase support and overhead costs (\$16.7 million), as well as costs associated with the demobilization of the *Ocean Yorktown* to the GOM in advance of the rig's future work in Mexico in early 2012.

Jack-ups. Revenue earned by our jack-up rigs decreased \$70.4 million in 2011 compared to 2010, primarily due to 810 fewer revenue earning days (\$71.0 million) in 2011 reflecting the impact of the cold stacking of rigs during the periods (331 fewer days), the sale of the *Ocean Shield* in July 2010 (232 fewer days) and an increase in warm stacked days in between contracts (319 days), partially offset by 72 fewer non-revenue earning days for repairs and mobilization of rigs. Contract drilling expense declined \$20.9 million in 2011 compared to 2010, primarily due to reduced expense for our cold stacked rigs (\$9.5 million) and the *Ocean Shield* (\$19.4 million). Contract drilling expense for our actively marketed jack-up rigs increased \$8.0 million during 2011, primarily due to higher rig mobilization costs, including costs related to the mobilization of the *Ocean Scepter* to the GOM, inspection costs and hull insurance.

[Table of Contents](#)**2010 Compared to 2009**

Ultra-Deepwater Floaters. Revenue generated by our ultra-deepwater floaters decreased \$27.6 million during 2010 compared to 2009. Our newest ultra-deepwater rigs, the *Ocean Courage* and *Ocean Valor*, generated \$109.3 million in revenue during 2010 and worked a combined 280 revenue earning days. However, aggregate revenue earned by our other six ultra-deepwater rigs decreased \$137.0 million in 2010 compared to 2009, due to 437 fewer revenue earning days (\$160.4 million), largely resulting from effects of the April 20, 2010 Macondo well blowout in the GOM, as well as a decrease in average daily revenue earned (\$19.3 million). The decline in 2010 revenue was partially offset by the recognition of \$12.0 million in incremental mobilization revenue, compared to the prior year, and the receipt of a \$30.7 million contract termination fee from a previous customer of the *Ocean Endeavor* in July 2010. The decrease in revenue earning days in 2010 was primarily attributable to increased downtime associated with incremental mobilization, contract preparation and customer acceptance days for three of our ultra-deepwater rigs that were relocated from the GOM to international locations in 2010 and unplanned downtime due to a force majeure assertion by one of our customers in the GOM following the Macondo incident. Contract drilling expense for our ultra-deepwater floaters increased \$111.0 million in 2010 compared to 2009, and included \$85.1 million in incremental contract drilling expense incurred by the *Ocean Courage* and *Ocean Valor*, as well as \$11.7 million in incremental mobilization expenses. Contract drilling expense in 2010 also reflected higher maintenance, inspection, freight, non-income based taxes and other revenue-based fees, partially offset by lower personnel and related costs, including a lower U.S. labor component as more of our rigs worked internationally in 2010 compared to the prior year.

Deepwater Floaters. Revenue generated by our deepwater floaters increased \$38.4 million in 2010 compared to 2009, primarily due to 44 additional revenue earning days (\$17.4 million). The increase in revenue earning days in 2010, compared to the prior year, resulted from 165 fewer warm stacked days between contracts, partially offset by 80 additional non-revenue earning days due to scheduled shipyard time for inspections, repairs and contract preparation activities and 45 incremental rig mobilization days. In addition, during 2010, we recognized \$21.0 million in incremental mobilization revenue compared to the prior year. Contract drilling expense increased \$46.8 million in 2010, compared to the prior year, primarily due to \$19.7 million in incremental mobilization expense, including amortized mobilization costs, increased personnel-related costs (\$12.4 million), higher revenue-based fees (\$4.0 million) and shorebase support costs (\$9.8 million), which included costs related to our recently established Angola operations and higher costs related to our expanded operations offshore Brazil.

Mid-Water Floaters. Revenue generated by our mid-water floaters decreased \$128.6 million in 2010 compared to 2009, primarily due to 397 fewer revenue earning days (\$114.4 million) combined with a decrease in average daily revenue earned (\$39.9 million) in 2010. The decrease in revenue earning days was primarily attributable to increased downtime during 2010 for repairs (95 days) and the cold stacking of rigs (492 days), partially offset by fewer mobilization days (142 fewer days) and warm stacked days (40 fewer days). The impact of these negative factors was partially offset by the recognition of \$25.7 million in incremental mobilization fees during 2010 compared to 2009. Contract drilling expense increased \$59.1 million during 2010 compared to 2009, primarily due to higher personnel-related expenses (\$35.7 million), rig mobilization costs (\$8.4 million), including amortized mobilization expenses, revenue-based fees and taxes (\$11.1 million) and shorebase support (Brazil and the Falkland Islands) and overhead costs (\$7.7 million).

Jack-ups. Revenue earned by our jack-up rigs decreased \$189.2 million in 2010 compared to 2009, primarily due to a decrease in average daily revenue earned (\$120.0 million) combined with the effect of 354 fewer revenue earning days (\$45.1 million) due to the sale of the *Ocean Shield* and the impact of our cold stacked rigs, including an additional jack-up rig cold stacked in September 2010, partially offset by a decrease in downtime between contracts for our actively marketed jack-ups. The decrease in average daily revenue earned during 2010 resulted primarily from all of our jack-up rigs working at lower dayrates than those earned during 2009 due to weakened market conditions at the time. Comparing periods, the decrease in revenue in 2010 was also attributable to a reduction of \$15.4 million in deferred mobilization revenue recognized in 2010 and an \$8.8 million demobilization fee earned in 2009 by the *Ocean Scepter* upon completion of its contract offshore Argentina. Contract drilling expense decreased \$45.8 million in 2010 compared to 2009, primarily due to reduced expense for our cold stacked rigs (\$26.3 million) and the *Ocean Shield* (\$13.1 million), which we sold in July 2010. Contract drilling expense for our actively marketed jack-up rigs decreased \$6.4 million during 2010 compared to 2009.

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Sources of Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our principal sources of liquidity and capital resources are cash flows from our operations and our cash reserves. At December 31, 2011, we had \$333.8 million in “Cash and cash equivalents” and \$902.4 million in “Marketable securities,” representing our investment of cash available for current operations.

We terminated our \$285 million credit facility on October 12, 2011, prior to its contractual maturity on November 2, 2011.

Liquidity and Capital Requirements

Our liquidity and capital requirements are primarily a function of our working capital needs, capital expenditures and debt service requirements. We determine the amount of cash required to meet our capital commitments by evaluating the need to upgrade rigs to meet specific customer requirements, our ongoing rig equipment replacement and enhancement programs, and our obligations relating to the construction of our three new drillships. As a result of our intention to indefinitely reinvest the earnings of DOIL to finance our foreign activities, we do not expect such earnings to be available for distribution to our stockholders or to finance our domestic activities. See “– Overview – Critical Accounting Estimates – Income Taxes.” However, we believe that the operating cash flows generated by and cash reserves of DOIL, and the operating cash flows available to and cash reserves of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. will be sufficient to meet their respective working capital requirements and capital commitments over the next twelve months. We will, however, continue to make periodic assessments based on industry conditions and will adjust capital spending programs if required.

In addition, we may, from time to time, issue debt or equity securities, or a combination thereof, to finance capital expenditures, the acquisition of assets and businesses or for general corporate purposes. Our ability to access the capital markets by issuing debt or equity securities will be dependent on our results of operations, our current financial condition, current market conditions and other factors beyond our control.

Contractual Cash Obligations.

The following table sets forth our contractual cash obligations at December 31, 2011.

Contractual Obligations	Payments Due By Period				
	Total	Less	1 – 3 years	4 – 5 years	After 5 years
		than			
		1 year			
(In thousands)					
Long-term debt (principal and interest) (1)	\$2,605,690	\$ 82,938	\$ 415,876	\$ 377,938	\$1,728,938
Construction contracts (2)	1,262,079	80,300	1,181,779	—	—
Operating leases	3,700	1,800	1,800	100	—
Total obligations	\$3,871,469	\$165,038	\$ 1,599,455	\$ 378,038	\$1,728,938

- (1) See Note 9 “Long-Term Debt” to our Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report.
- (2) During 2011, we entered into an agreement with Keppel AmFELS, L.L.C., or Keppel, for the construction of a deepwater semisubmersible rig, the *Ocean Onyx*. In December 2010 and during the first half of 2011, we entered into three separate turnkey construction contracts with Hyundai for the construction of three ultra-deepwater drillships. See “– *Capital Expenditures*” and Note 11 “Commitments and Contingencies – *Purchase Obligations*” to our Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report.

The above table excludes FOREX contracts in the aggregate notional amount of \$154.3 million outstanding at December 31, 2011. See further information regarding these contracts in Item 7A, “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk – *Foreign Exchange Risk*” and Note 6 “Derivative Financial Instruments” to our Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report.

As of December 31, 2011, the total unrecognized tax benefit related to uncertain tax positions was \$41.2 million. In addition, we have recorded a liability, as of December 31, 2011, for potential penalties and interest of \$22.5 million and \$8.9 million, respectively, related to the tax benefit of uncertain tax positions. Due to the high degree of uncertainty regarding the timing of future cash outflows associated with the liabilities recognized in this balance, we are unable to make reasonably reliable estimates of the period of cash settlement with the respective taxing authorities.

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Except for the construction contracts discussed in the preceding table, we had no other purchase obligations for major rig upgrades or any other significant obligations at December 31, 2011, except for those related to our direct rig operations, which arise during the normal course of business.

Other Commercial Commitments - Letters of Credit.

We were contingently liable as of December 31, 2011 in the amount of \$108.4 million under certain performance, bid, supersedeas, tax appeal and custom bonds and letters of credit. We purchased one \$11.8 million bond from a related party after obtaining competitive quotes. Agreements relating to approximately \$88.2 million of performance bonds can require collateral at any time. As of December 31, 2011, we had not been required to make any collateral deposits with respect to these agreements. The remaining agreements cannot require collateral except in events of default. Banks have issued letters of credit on our behalf securing certain of these bonds. See Note 12 "Related-Party Transactions" to our Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this report. The table below provides a list of these obligations in U.S. dollar equivalents and their time to expiration.

	Total	For the Years Ending December 31,		
		2012	2013	Thereafter
		(In thousands)		
Other Commercial Commitments				
Customs bonds	\$ 1,442	\$ 942	\$ 500	\$ —
Performance bonds	79,604	24,011	11,193	44,399
Other	27,365	27,365	—	—
Total obligations	\$108,411	\$52,318	\$11,693	\$ 44,399

Credit Ratings.

Our current credit rating is Baa1 for Moody's Investors Services and A- for Standard & Poor's. Although our long-term ratings continue at investment grade levels, lower ratings could result in higher interest rates on future debt issuances.

Capital Expenditures.

In December 2011, we entered into an agreement with Keppel, in Brownsville, Texas, for the construction of a moored semisubmersible rig designed to operate in water depths up to 6,000 feet. The rig will be constructed utilizing the hull of one of our mid-water floaters that previously operated as the *Ocean Voyager*. The project is estimated to be completed in the third quarter of 2013 at an aggregate cost of approximately \$300 million, including commissioning, spares and project management costs.

In addition, since December 2010, we have entered into three separate turnkey contracts with Hyundai for the construction of three dynamically positioned, ultra-deepwater drillships, with deliveries scheduled for the second and fourth quarters of 2013 and in the second quarter of 2014. The aggregate cost of the three drillships, including commissioning, spares and project management, is expected to be approximately \$1.8 billion.

For 2012, we have budgeted approximately \$220.0 million for capital expenditures associated with the construction of our new drillships and the *Ocean Onyx* and an additional \$330.0 million for capital expenditures associated with our ongoing rig equipment replacement and enhancement programs and other corporate requirements. We expect to finance our 2012 capital expenditures through the use of our existing cash balances or internally generated funds.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements.

At December 31, 2011 and 2010, we had no off-balance sheet debt or other arrangements.

[Table of Contents](#)**Historical Cash Flows**

The following is a discussion of our historical cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2011 compared to 2010.

Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	Change
	(In thousands)		
Net income	\$ 962,542	\$ 955,457	\$ 7,085
Net changes in operating assets and liabilities	20,524	(3,119)	23,643
Proceeds from settlement of FOREX contracts designated as accounting hedges	7,206	3,307	3,899
Gain on sale and disposition of assets	(4,758)	(34,714)	29,956
Deferred tax provision (benefit)	2,141	(6,916)	9,057
Depreciation and other non-cash items, net	432,450	368,303	64,147
	\$1,420,105	\$1,282,318	\$137,787

Our cash flows from operations in 2011 increased \$137.8 million compared to 2010. Non-cash adjustments to net income during 2011 were \$437.0 million, compared to \$330.0 million during 2010, and included a net \$21.1 million adjustment for the recognition of mobilization fees received and expenses incurred in previous years. Non-cash adjustments during 2010 included a \$(41.4) million net deferral of fees received and cash spent in connection with the mobilization of rigs during 2010 and a \$32.8 million gain from the 2010 sale of the *Ocean Shield*. Operating cash flows were favorably impacted by a decrease in net cash required to satisfy working capital requirements in 2011 compared to 2010.

We used \$23.6 million less cash to satisfy working capital needs during 2011 compared to 2010, primarily due to lower estimated income taxes paid in the U.S. federal jurisdiction partially offset by higher foreign income tax payments. During 2011, we made U.S. federal income tax payments and paid foreign income taxes, net of refunds, of \$94.8 million and \$150.5 million, respectively. During 2010, we made U.S. federal income tax payments and paid foreign income taxes, net of refunds, of \$427.5 million and \$128.5 million, respectively. Trade and other receivables generated cash of \$60.8 million in 2011 compared to generating cash of \$143.1 million in 2010. We used \$43.2 million more cash to satisfy accounts payable and accrued liability needs during 2011 compared to 2010.

Net Cash Used in Investing Activities.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	Change
	(In thousands)		
Purchase of marketable securities	\$(5,653,665)	\$(5,660,518)	\$ 6,853
Proceeds from sale and maturities of marketable securities	5,362,138	5,450,230	(88,092)
Capital expenditures (including rig construction)	(774,756)	(434,262)	(340,494)
Proceeds from disposition of assets	5,603	188,066	(182,463)
	\$(1,060,680)	\$ (456,484)	\$(604,196)

Our investing activities used \$1.1 billion in 2011 compared to \$456.5 million in 2010. We purchased marketable securities, net of sales, of \$291.5 million and \$210.3 million during 2011 and 2010, respectively. Our level of investment activity is dependent on our working capital and other capital requirements during the year, as well as a response to actual or anticipated events or conditions in the securities markets.

During 2011, we spent \$490.2 million towards the construction of our three new drillships. See “– Liquidity and Capital Requirements – Contractual Cash Obligations” and “– Liquidity and Capital Requirements – Capital Expenditures.” We spent an additional \$284.6 million during 2011 related to ongoing capital maintenance programs, including rig modifications to meet contractual requirements, compared to \$434.3 million in 2010. Capital expenditures in 2010 also included commissioning and initial outfitting costs of the *Ocean Courage* and *Ocean Valor*.

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On July 7, 2010, we completed the sale of the *Ocean Shield* for net proceeds of \$185.3 million.

Net Cash Used in Financing Activities.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	Change
	(In thousands)		
Payment of dividends	\$ (490,057)	\$ (733,661)	\$243,604
Redemption of zero coupon debentures	—	(4,238)	4,238
Other	4	41	(37)
	<u>\$ (490,053)</u>	<u>\$ (737,858)</u>	<u>\$247,805</u>

During 2011, we paid cash dividends totaling \$490.1 million, consisting of aggregate regular and special cash dividends of \$69.5 million and \$420.6 million, respectively. During 2010, we paid cash dividends totaling \$733.7 million, consisting of aggregate regular and special cash dividends of \$69.5 million and \$664.2 million, respectively.

On February 1, 2012, we declared a regular cash dividend and a special cash dividend of \$0.125 and \$0.75, respectively, per share of our common stock. Both the quarterly and special cash dividends are payable on March 1, 2012 to stockholders of record on February 13, 2012.

On May 28, 2010, we redeemed the then outstanding \$4.2 million accreted value, or \$6.0 million in aggregate principal amount at maturity, of our Zero Coupon Convertible Debentures due 2020, at a redemption price of \$706.28 per \$1,000 principal amount at maturity for cash.

Our Board of Directors has adopted a policy to consider paying special cash dividends, in amounts to be determined, on a quarterly basis. Our Board of Directors may, in subsequent quarters, consider paying additional special cash dividends, in amounts to be determined, if it believes that our financial position, earnings, earnings outlook, capital spending plans and other relevant factors warrant such action at that time.

Depending on market conditions, we may, from time to time, purchase shares of our common stock in the open market or otherwise. We did not repurchase any shares of our outstanding common stock during the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010.

Other

Currency Risk. Some of our subsidiaries conduct a portion of their operations in the local currency of the country where they conduct operations. Currency environments in which we have significant business operations include Brazil, the U.K., Australia and Mexico. When possible, we attempt to minimize our currency exchange risk by seeking international contracts payable in local currency in amounts equal to our estimated operating costs payable in local currency with the balance of the contract payable in U.S. dollars. At present, however, only a limited number of our contracts are payable both in U.S. dollars and the local currency.

To the extent that we are not able to cover our local currency operating costs with customer payments in the local currency, we also utilize FOREX contracts to reduce our currency exchange risk. Our FOREX contracts may obligate us to exchange predetermined amounts of specified foreign currencies at specified foreign exchange rates on specific dates or to net settle the spread between the contracted foreign currency exchange rate and the spot rate on the contract settlement date, which, for most of our contracts, is the average spot rate for the contract period.

We record currency transaction gains and losses as “Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)” in our Consolidated Statements of Operations. Gains and losses arising from the settlement of our FOREX contracts that have been designated as cash flow hedges are reported as a component of “Contract drilling, excluding depreciation” expense in our Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued Accounting Standards Update, or ASU, No. 2011-05, “Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): *Presentation of Comprehensive Income*,” or ASU 2011-05, which eliminates the option to present components of other comprehensive income, or OCI, as part of the

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statement of changes in stockholders' equity, requires the presentation of each component of net income and each component of OCI either in a single continuous statement or in two separate but consecutive statements and also requires presentation of reclassification adjustments on the face of the financial statement. The FASB subsequently deferred the effective date of certain provisions of this standard pertaining to the reclassification of items out of accumulated other comprehensive income, pending the issuance of further guidance on the matter. The remaining portions of ASU 2011-05 are effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011; however, early adoption is permitted. The adoption of ASU 2011-05 will not have an effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-04, "Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): *Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs*," or ASU 2011-04. ASU 2011-04 clarifies existing fair value measurement and disclosure requirements, amends certain fair value measurement principles and requires additional disclosures about fair value measurements. ASU 2011-04 is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. We will incorporate any additional disclosures in our interim and annual financial statements for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2012.

Forward-Looking Statements

We or our representatives may, from time to time, either in this report, in periodic press releases or otherwise, make or incorporate by reference certain written or oral statements that are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. All statements other than statements of historical fact are, or may be deemed to be, forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, without limitation, any statement that may project, indicate or imply future results, events, performance or achievements, and may contain or be identified by the words "expect," "intend," "plan," "predict," "anticipate," "estimate," "believe," "should," "could," "may," "might," "will," "will be," "will continue," "will likely result," "project," "forecast," "budget" and similar expressions. In addition, any statement concerning future financial performance (including future revenues, earnings or growth rates), ongoing business strategies or prospects, and possible actions taken by or against us, which may be provided by management, are also forward-looking statements as so defined. Statements made by us in this report that contain forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, information concerning our possible or assumed future results of operations and statements about the following subjects:

- future market conditions and the effect of such conditions on our future results of operations;
- future uses of and requirements for financial resources;
- interest rate and foreign exchange risk;
- future contractual obligations;
- future operations outside the United States including, without limitation, our operations in Mexico, Egypt and Brazil;
- effects of the Macondo well blowout, including, without limitation, the impact of the moratorium and its aftermath on drilling in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, related delays in permitting activities and related regulations and market developments;
- business strategy;
- growth opportunities;
- competitive position;
- expected financial position;
- future cash flows and contract backlog;
- future regular or special dividends;
- financing plans;
- market outlook;
- tax planning;
- debt levels, including impacts of the financial crisis and restrictions in the credit market;
- budgets for capital and other expenditures;
- timing and duration of required regulatory inspections for our drilling rigs;
- timing and cost of completion of rig upgrades, construction projects (including, without limitation, our three drillships under construction and the *Ocean Onyx*) and other capital projects;

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- delivery dates and drilling contracts related to rig conversion or upgrade projects, construction projects or rig acquisitions;
- plans and objectives of management;
- idling drilling rigs or reactivating stacked rigs;
- asset impairment evaluations;
- performance of contracts;
- outcomes of legal proceedings;
- compliance with applicable laws; and
- availability, limits and adequacy of insurance or indemnification.

These types of statements are based on current expectations about future events and inherently are subject to a variety of assumptions, risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expected, projected or expressed in forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, among others, the following:

- those described under “Risk Factors” in Item 1A;
- general economic and business conditions, including the extent and duration of the recent financial crisis and restrictions in the credit market, the worldwide economic downturn and recession;
- worldwide demand for oil and natural gas;
- changes in foreign and domestic oil and gas exploration, development and production activity;
- oil and natural gas price fluctuations and related market expectations;
- the ability of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, commonly called OPEC, to set and maintain production levels and pricing, and the level of production in non-OPEC countries;
- policies of various governments regarding exploration and development of oil and gas reserves;
- our inability to obtain contracts for our rigs that do not have contracts;
- the cancellation of contracts included in our reported contract backlog;
- advances in exploration and development technology;
- the worldwide political and military environment, including in oil-producing regions;
- casualty losses;
- operating hazards inherent in drilling for oil and gas offshore;
- the risk of physical damage to rigs and equipment caused by named windstorms in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico;
- industry fleet capacity;
- market conditions in the offshore contract drilling industry, including day rates and utilization levels;
- competition;
- changes in foreign, political, social and economic conditions;
- risks of international operations, compliance with foreign laws and taxation policies and expropriation or nationalization of equipment and assets;
- risks of potential contractual liabilities pursuant to our various drilling contracts in effect from time to time;
- the ability of customers and suppliers to meet their obligations to us and our subsidiaries;
- the risk that a letter of intent may not result in a definitive agreement;
- foreign exchange and currency fluctuations and regulations, and the inability to repatriate income or capital;
- risks of war, military operations, other armed hostilities, terrorist acts and embargoes;
- changes in offshore drilling technology, which could require significant capital expenditures in order to maintain competitiveness;
- regulatory initiatives and compliance with governmental regulations including, without limitation, regulations pertaining to climate change, carbon emissions or energy use;
- compliance with environmental laws and regulations;
- potential changes in accounting policies by the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, or regulatory agencies for our industry which may cause us to revise our financial accounting and/or disclosures in the future, and which may change the way analysts measure our business or financial performance;
- development and exploitation of alternative fuels;
- customer preferences;

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- effects of litigation, tax audits and contingencies and the impact of compliance with judicial rulings and jury verdicts;
- cost, availability, limits and adequacy of insurance;
- invalidity of assumptions used in the design of our controls and procedures;
- the results of financing efforts;
- the risk that future regular or special dividends may not be declared;
- adequacy of our sources of liquidity;
- risks resulting from our indebtedness;
- public health threats;
- negative publicity;
- impairments of assets;
- the availability of qualified personnel to operate and service our drilling rigs; and
- various other matters, many of which are beyond our control.

The risks and uncertainties included here are not exhaustive. Other sections of this report and our other filings with the SEC include additional factors that could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial performance. Given these risks and uncertainties, investors should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements included in this report speak only as of the date of this report. We expressly disclaim any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statement to reflect any change in our expectations or beliefs with regard to the statement or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any forward-looking statement is based.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

The information included in this Item 7A is considered to constitute “forward-looking statements” for purposes of the statutory safe harbor provided in Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Forward-Looking Statements” in Item 7 of this report.

Our measure of market risk exposure represents an estimate of the change in fair value of our financial instruments. Market risk exposure is presented for each class of financial instrument held by us at December 31, 2011 and 2010, assuming immediate adverse market movements of the magnitude described below. We believe that the various rates of adverse market movements represent a measure of exposure to loss under hypothetically assumed adverse conditions. The estimated market risk exposure represents the hypothetical loss to future earnings and does not represent the maximum possible loss or any expected actual loss, even under adverse conditions, because actual adverse fluctuations would likely differ. In addition, since our investment portfolio is subject to change based on our portfolio management strategy as well as in response to changes in the market, these estimates are not necessarily indicative of the actual results that may occur.

Exposure to market risk is managed and monitored by our senior management. Senior management approves the overall investment strategy that we employ and has responsibility to ensure that the investment positions are consistent with that strategy and the level of risk acceptable to us. We may manage risk by buying or selling instruments or entering into offsetting positions.

Interest Rate Risk

We have exposure to interest rate risk arising from changes in the level or volatility of interest rates. Our investments in marketable securities are primarily in fixed maturity securities. We monitor our sensitivity to interest rate risk by evaluating the change in the value of our financial assets and liabilities due to fluctuations in interest rates. The evaluation is performed by applying an instantaneous change in interest rates by varying magnitudes on a static balance sheet to determine the effect such a change in rates would have on the recorded market value of our investments and the resulting effect on stockholders’ equity. The analysis presents the sensitivity of the market value of our financial instruments to selected changes in market rates and prices which we believe are reasonably possible over a one-year period.

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The sensitivity analysis estimates the change in the market value of our interest sensitive assets and liabilities that were held on December 31, 2011 and 2010, due to instantaneous parallel shifts in the yield curve of 100 basis points, with all other variables held constant.

The interest rates on certain types of assets and liabilities may fluctuate in advance of changes in market interest rates, while interest rates on other types may lag behind changes in market rates. Accordingly, the analysis may not be indicative of, is not intended to provide, and does not provide a precise forecast of the effect of changes in market interest rates on our earnings or stockholders' equity. Further, the computations do not contemplate any actions we could undertake in response to changes in interest rates.

Our long-term debt, as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, is denominated in U.S. dollars. Our existing debt has been issued at fixed rates, and as such, interest expense would not be impacted by interest rate shifts. The impact of a 100-basis point increase in interest rates on fixed rate debt would result in a decrease in market value of \$122.0 million and \$117.0 million as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. A 100-basis point decrease would result in an increase in market value of \$142.4 million and \$135.5 million as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Foreign Exchange Risk

Foreign exchange rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in foreign currency exchange rates will impact the value of financial instruments. It is customary for us to enter into FOREX contracts in the normal course of business. These contracts generally require us to net settle the spread between the contracted foreign currency exchange rate and the spot rate on the contract settlement date, which for most of our contracts is the average spot rate for the contract period. As of December 31, 2011, we had FOREX contracts outstanding in the aggregate notional amount of \$154.3 million, consisting of \$21.9 million in Australian dollars, \$81.6 million in Brazilian reais, \$25.2 million in British pounds sterling, \$14.1 million in Mexican pesos and \$11.5 million in Norwegian kroner. These contracts generally settle monthly through June 2012. At December 31, 2011, we have presented the fair value of our outstanding FOREX contracts as a current asset of \$1.3 million in "Prepaid expenses and other current assets" and a current liability of \$(8.5) million in "Accrued liabilities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets included in Item 8 of this report. We have presented the fair value of our outstanding FOREX contracts at December 31, 2010 as a current asset of \$4.3 million in "Prepaid expenses and other current assets" and a current liability of \$(0.1) million in "Accrued liabilities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets included in Item 8 of this report.

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The following table presents our exposure to market risk by category (interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates):

	Fair Value Asset (Liability)		Market Risk	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
(In thousands)				
Interest rate:				
Marketable securities	\$902,400(a)	\$612,300(a)	\$ (4,100) (b)	\$ (1,100) (b)
Foreign Exchange:				
Forward exchange contracts – receivable positions	1,300(c)	4,300(c)	(11,400) (d)	(23,500) (d)
Forward exchange contracts – liability positions	(8,500) (c)	(100) (c)	(14,700) (d)	(2,100) (d)

(a) The fair market value of our investment in marketable securities, excluding repurchase agreements, is based on the quoted closing market prices on December 31, 2011 and 2010.

(b) The calculation of estimated market risk exposure is based on assumed adverse changes in the underlying reference price or index of an increase in interest rates of 100 basis points at December 31, 2011 and 2010.

(c) The fair value of our foreign currency forward exchange contracts is based on both quoted market prices and valuations derived from pricing models on December 31, 2011 and 2010.

(d) The calculation of estimated foreign exchange risk assumes an instantaneous 20% decrease in the foreign currency exchange rates versus the U.S. dollar from their values at December 31, 2011 and 2010, with all other variables held constant.

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Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of
Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Houston, Texas

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders’ equity, comprehensive income and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and subsidiaries at December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on the criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 22, 2012 expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP
Houston, Texas
February 22, 2012

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of
Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Houston, Texas

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2011, based on criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company’s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Item 9A of this Form 10-K under the heading “Management’s Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.” Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company’s principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company’s board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on the criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011 of the Company and our report dated February 22, 2012 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP
Houston, Texas
February 22, 2012

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**DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES**

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(In thousands, except share and per share data)

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 333,765	\$ 464,393
Marketable securities	902,414	612,346
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for bad debts	563,934	609,606
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	192,570	177,153
Total current assets	1,992,683	1,863,498
Drilling and other property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	4,667,469	4,283,792
Long-term receivable	—	35,361
Other assets	304,005	544,333
Total assets	<u>\$ 6,964,157</u>	<u>\$ 6,726,984</u>
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 64,147	\$ 99,236
Accrued liabilities	336,400	469,190
Taxes payable	26,744	57,862
Total current liabilities	427,291	626,288
Long-term debt	1,495,823	1,495,593
Deferred tax liability	536,815	542,258
Other liabilities	171,165	201,133
Total liabilities	<u>2,631,094</u>	<u>2,865,272</u>
Commitments and contingencies (Note 11)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock (par value \$0.01, 25,000,000 shares authorized, none issued and outstanding)	—	—
Common stock (par value \$0.01, 500,000,000 shares authorized; 143,944,009 shares issued and 139,027,209 shares outstanding at December 31, 2011; 143,943,624 shares issued and 139,026,824 shares outstanding at December 31, 2010)	1,439	1,439
Additional paid-in capital	1,978,369	1,972,550
Retained earnings	2,472,310	1,998,995
Accumulated other comprehensive gain (loss)	(4,642)	3,141
Treasury stock, at cost (4,916,800 shares at December 31, 2011 and 2010)	(114,413)	(114,413)
Total stockholders' equity	4,333,063	3,861,712
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	<u>\$ 6,964,157</u>	<u>\$ 6,726,984</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

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**DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES**

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(In thousands, except per share data)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Revenues:			
Contract drilling	\$ 3,254,313	\$ 3,229,736	\$ 3,536,579
Revenues related to reimbursable expenses	68,106	93,238	94,705
Total revenues	<u>3,322,419</u>	<u>3,322,974</u>	<u>3,631,284</u>
Operating expenses:			
Contract drilling, excluding depreciation	1,548,502	1,391,086	1,223,771
Reimbursable expenses	66,052	91,240	93,097
Depreciation	398,612	393,177	346,446
General and administrative	65,310	66,600	62,913
Bad debt (recovery) expense	(6,713)	(9,789)	9,746
Gain on disposition of assets	(4,758)	(34,714)	(7,902)
Total operating expenses	<u>2,067,005</u>	<u>1,897,600</u>	<u>1,728,071</u>
Operating income	<u>1,255,414</u>	<u>1,425,374</u>	<u>1,903,213</u>
Other income (expense):			
Interest income	6,668	2,909	4,497
Interest expense	(73,137)	(90,698)	(49,610)
Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	(8,588)	1,369	11,483
Other, net	(1,086)	(2,938)	(1,152)
Income before income tax expense	<u>1,179,271</u>	<u>1,336,016</u>	<u>1,868,431</u>
Income tax expense	<u>(216,729)</u>	<u>(380,559)</u>	<u>(492,212)</u>
Net income	<u>\$ 962,542</u>	<u>\$ 955,457</u>	<u>\$ 1,376,219</u>
Earnings per share:			
Basic	<u>\$ 6.92</u>	<u>\$ 6.87</u>	<u>\$ 9.90</u>
Diluted	<u>\$ 6.92</u>	<u>\$ 6.87</u>	<u>\$ 9.89</u>
Weighted-average shares outstanding:			
Shares of common stock	139,027	139,026	139,007
Dilutive potential shares of common stock	11	44	90
Total weighted-average shares outstanding	<u>139,038</u>	<u>139,070</u>	<u>139,097</u>
Cash dividends declared per share of common stock	<u>\$ 3.50</u>	<u>\$ 5.25</u>	<u>\$ 8.00</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

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**DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
(In thousands, except number of shares)**

	Common Stock		Additional	Retained	Accumulated	Treasury Stock		Total
	Shares	Amount	Paid-in Capital	Earnings	Other Comprehensive Gains (Losses)	Shares	Amount	Stockholders' Equity
January 1, 2009	143,917,850	\$ 1,439	\$ 1,957,041	\$ 1,516,908	\$ 510	4,916,800	\$(114,413)	\$ 3,361,485
Net income	—	—	—	1,376,219	—	—	—	1,376,219
Dividends to stockholders (\$8.00 per share)	—	—	—	(1,112,058)	—	—	—	(1,112,058)
Anti-dilution adjustment paid to stock plan participants (\$7.50 per share)	—	—	—	(4,571)	—	—	—	(4,571)
Stock options exercised	25,128	—	1,069	—	—	—	—	1,069
Stock-based compensation, net of tax	—	—	7,403	—	—	—	—	7,403
Net gain on foreign currency forward exchange contracts	—	—	—	—	1,563	—	—	1,563
Net loss on investments	—	—	—	—	(468)	—	—	(468)
December 31, 2009	143,942,978	1,439	1,965,513	1,776,498	1,605	4,916,800	(114,413)	3,630,642
Net income	—	—	—	955,457	—	—	—	955,457
Dividends to stockholders (\$5.25 per share)	—	—	—	(729,888)	—	—	—	(729,888)
Anti-dilution adjustment paid to stock plan participants (\$4.75 per share)	—	—	—	(3,072)	—	—	—	(3,072)
Stock options exercised	646	—	31	—	—	—	—	31
Stock-based compensation, net of tax	—	—	7,006	—	—	—	—	7,006
Net gain on foreign currency forward exchange contracts	—	—	—	—	1,170	—	—	1,170
Net gain on investments	—	—	—	—	366	—	—	366
December 31, 2010	143,943,624	1,439	1,972,550	1,998,995	3,141	4,916,800	(114,413)	3,861,712
Net income	—	—	—	962,542	—	—	—	962,542
Dividends to stockholders (\$3.50 per share)	—	—	—	(486,595)	—	—	—	(486,595)
Anti-dilution adjustment paid to stock plan participants (\$3.00 per share)	—	—	—	(2,632)	—	—	—	(2,632)
Stock options exercised	385	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stock-based compensation, net of tax	—	—	5,819	—	—	—	—	5,819
Net loss on foreign currency forward exchange contracts	—	—	—	—	(7,353)	—	—	(7,353)
Net loss on investments	—	—	—	—	(430)	—	—	(430)
December 31, 2011	143,944,009	\$ 1,439	\$ 1,978,369	\$ 2,472,310	\$ (4,642)	4,916,800	\$(114,413)	\$ 4,333,063

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

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**DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(In thousands)**

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Net income	\$ 962,542	\$ 955,457	\$ 1,376,219
Other comprehensive gains (losses), net of tax:			
Foreign currency forward exchange contracts:			
Unrealized holding gain (loss)	(625)	2,334	6,395
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(6,728)	(1,164)	(4,832)
Investments in marketable securities:			
Unrealized holding gain (loss) on investments	(46)	343	41
Reclassification adjustment for (gain) loss included in net income	(384)	23	(509)
Total other comprehensive gain (loss)	(7,783)	1,536	1,095
Comprehensive income	\$ 954,759	\$ 956,993	\$ 1,377,314

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements

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**DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(In thousands)**

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Operating activities:			
Net income	\$ 962,542	\$ 955,457	\$ 1,376,219
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation	398,612	393,177	346,446
Gain on disposition of assets	(4,758)	(34,714)	(7,902)
Loss (gain) on sale of marketable securities, net	(779)	7	(619)
(Gain) loss on foreign currency forward exchange contracts	(7,206)	(3,307)	(17,751)
Deferred tax provision	2,141	(6,916)	85,524
Accretion of discounts on marketable securities	1,586	(648)	(679)
Amortization/write-off of debt issuance costs	868	882	672
Amortization of debt discounts	230	277	299
Stock-based compensation expense	4,956	5,928	6,440
Excess tax benefits from stock-based payment arrangements	—	—	(99)
Deferred income, net	(32,219)	17,777	37,405
Deferred expenses, net	53,317	(59,208)	(46,640)
Other assets, noncurrent	2,220	2,477	(2,775)
Other liabilities, noncurrent	10,865	10,941	17,448
Proceeds from settlement of foreign currency forward exchange contracts designated as accounting hedges	7,206	3,307	8,895
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	60,785	143,096	(219,867)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(6,406)	1,519	3,503
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(9,842)	33,326	(26,698)
Taxes payable	(24,013)	(181,060)	(43,007)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,420,105	1,282,318	1,516,814
Investing activities:			
Capital expenditures (including rig construction)	(774,756)	(434,262)	(412,444)
Rig acquisitions	—	—	(950,024)
Proceeds from disposition of assets, net of disposal costs	5,603	188,066	40,462
Proceeds from sale and maturities of marketable securities	5,362,138	5,450,230	4,473,891
Purchases of marketable securities	(5,653,665)	(5,660,518)	(4,473,575)
Cost to settle foreign currency forward exchange contracts not designated as accounting hedges	—	—	(28,445)
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,060,680)	(456,484)	(1,350,135)
Financing activities:			
Redemption of zero coupon debentures	—	(4,238)	—
Issuance of 5.875% senior unsecured notes	—	—	499,255
Issuance of 5.70% senior unsecured notes	—	—	496,720
Debt issuance costs and arrangement fees	—	(98)	(8,671)
Payment of dividends	(490,057)	(733,661)	(1,115,211)
Other	4	139	1,593
Net cash used in financing activities	(490,053)	(737,858)	(126,314)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(130,628)	87,976	40,365
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	464,393	376,417	336,052
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 333,765	\$ 464,393	\$ 376,417

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

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**DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES**

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. General Information

Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. is a leading, global offshore oil and gas drilling contractor with a fleet of 49 offshore rigs, consisting of 32 semisubmersibles, 13 jack-ups and four dynamically positioned drillships, three of which are under construction with delivery expected in the second and fourth quarters of 2013 and in the second quarter of 2014. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in these Notes to “Diamond Offshore,” “we,” “us” or “our” mean Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and our consolidated subsidiaries. We were incorporated in Delaware in 1989.

As of February 16, 2012, Loews Corporation, or Loews, owned 50.4% of the outstanding shares of our common stock.

Principles of Consolidation

Our consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and our subsidiaries after elimination of intercompany transactions and balances.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or U.S., or GAAP, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimated.

Reclassifications

Certain amounts applicable to the prior periods have been reclassified to conform to the classifications currently followed. Such reclassifications do not affect earnings.

Cash and Cash Equivalents, Marketable Securities

We consider short-term, highly liquid investments that have an original maturity of three months or less and deposits in money market mutual funds that are readily convertible into cash to be cash equivalents.

We classify our investments in marketable securities as available for sale and they are stated at fair value in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Accordingly, any unrealized gains and losses, net of taxes, are reported in our Consolidated Balance Sheets in “Accumulated other comprehensive gain (loss)” until realized. The cost of debt securities is adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts to maturity and such adjustments are included in our Consolidated Statements of Operations in “Interest income.” The sale and purchase of securities are recorded on the date of the trade. The cost of debt securities sold is based on the specific identification method. Realized gains or losses, as well as any declines in value that are judged to be other than temporary, are reported in our Consolidated Statements of Operations in “Other income (expense) – Other, net.”

The effect of exchange rate changes on cash balances held in foreign currencies was not material for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

Provision for Bad Debts

We record a provision for bad debts on a case-by-case basis when facts and circumstances indicate that a customer receivable may not be collectible. In establishing these reserves, we consider historical and other factors that predict collectability, including write-offs, recoveries and the monitoring of credit quality. Such provision is reported as a component of “Operating expense” in our Consolidated Statements of Operations. See Note 2.

[Table of Contents](#)*Derivative Financial Instruments*

Our derivative financial instruments consist of foreign currency forward exchange, or FOREX, contracts which we may designate as cash flow hedges. In accordance with GAAP, each derivative contract is stated in the balance sheet at its fair value with gains and losses reflected in the income statement except that, to the extent the derivative qualifies for and is designated as an accounting hedge, the gains and losses are reflected in income in the same period as offsetting gains and losses on the qualifying hedged positions. Designated hedges are expected to be highly effective, and therefore, adjustments to record the carrying value of the effective portion of our derivative financial instruments to their fair value are recorded as a component of "Accumulated other comprehensive gain (loss)," or AOCGL, in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. The effective portion of the cash flow hedge will remain in AOCGL until it is reclassified into earnings in the period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings or it is determined that the hedged transaction will not occur. We report such realized gains and losses as a component of "Contract drilling, excluding depreciation" expense in our Consolidated Statements of Operations to offset the impact of foreign currency fluctuations in our expenditures in local foreign currencies in the countries in which we operate.

Adjustments to record the carrying value of the ineffective portion of our derivative financial instruments to fair value and realized gains or losses upon settlement of derivative contracts not designated as cash flow hedges are reported as "Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)" in our Consolidated Statements of Operations. See Notes 6 and 7.

Drilling and Other Property and Equipment

We carry our drilling and other property and equipment at cost. Maintenance and routine repairs are charged to income currently while replacements and betterments, which upgrade or increase the functionality of our existing equipment and that significantly extend the useful life of an existing asset, are capitalized. Significant judgments, assumptions and estimates may be required in determining whether or not such replacements and betterments meet the criteria for capitalization and in determining useful lives and salvage values of such assets. Changes in these judgments, assumptions and estimates could produce results that differ from those reported. Historically, the amount of capital additions requiring significant judgments, assumptions or estimates has not been significant. During the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, we capitalized \$269.5 million and \$379.8 million, respectively, in replacements and betterments of our drilling fleet, resulting from numerous projects ranging from \$25,000 to \$50 million per project.

Costs incurred for major rig upgrades and/or the construction of rigs are accumulated in construction work-in-progress, with no depreciation recorded on the additions, until the month the upgrade or newbuild is completed and the rig is placed in service. Upon retirement or sale of a rig, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts and any gains or losses are included in our results of operations as "Gain on disposition of assets." Depreciation is recognized up to applicable salvage values by applying the straight-line method over the remaining estimated useful lives from the year the asset is placed in service. Drilling rigs and equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful lives ranging from three to 30 years.

Capitalized Interest

We capitalize interest cost for the construction and upgrade of qualifying assets. In 2011, we began capitalizing interest on qualifying expenditures related to the construction of three drillships with expected deliveries in 2013 and 2014. There were no qualifying expenditures during 2010 or 2009.

A reconciliation of our total interest cost to "Interest expense" as reported in our Consolidated Statements of Operations is as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Total interest cost including amortization of debt issuance costs	\$ 84,349	\$ 90,698	\$ 49,610
Capitalized interest	(11,212)	—	—
Total interest expense as reported	\$ 73,137	\$ 90,698	\$ 49,610

[Table of Contents](#)*Asset Retirement Obligations*

At December 31, 2011 and 2010, we had no asset retirement obligations.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

We evaluate our property and equipment for impairment whenever changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable (such as cold stacking a rig or excess spending over budget on a newbuild, construction project or major rig upgrade). We utilize a probability-weighted cash flow analysis in testing an asset for potential impairment. Our assumptions and estimates underlying this analysis include the following:

- dayrate by rig;
- utilization rate by rig (expressed as the actual percentage of time per year that the rig would be used);
- the per day operating cost for each rig if active, warm stacked or cold-stacked;
- the estimated annual cost for rig replacements and/or enhancement programs;
- the estimated maintenance, inspection or other costs associated with a rig returning to work;
- salvage value for each rig; and
- estimated proceeds that may be received on disposition of the rig.

Based on these assumptions and estimates, we develop a matrix using several different utilization/dayrate scenarios, to each of which we have assigned a probability of occurrence. The sum of our utilization scenarios (which include active, warm stacked and cold stacked) and probability of occurrence scenarios both equal 100% in the aggregate. We reevaluate our cold-stacked rigs annually, and we update the matrices for each of our cold stacked rigs at each year end and modify our assumptions giving consideration to the length of time the rig has been cold stacked, the current and expected market for the type of rig and expectations of future oil and gas prices. Further, to test sensitivity, we consider the impact of a 5% reduction in assumed dayrates for the cold-stacked rigs (holding all other assumptions and estimates in the model constant). We would not necessarily record an impairment if the sensitivity analysis indicated potential cash flows would be insufficient to recover our carrying value. We would assess other qualitative factors including industry, regulatory and other relevant conditions to determine whether an impairment or further disclosure is warranted.

A summary of our cold stacked rigs evaluated for impairment at December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was as follows:

	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In millions, except number of rigs)		
Mid-Water floaters	3	3	1
Jack-ups	5	4	3
Total	8	7	4
Aggregate net book value	\$76.5	\$78.0	\$20.2

We performed an impairment review for each of these rigs using the methodology described above. Based on our analyses, we concluded that these eight, seven and four rigs were not subject to impairment at December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Management's assumptions are an inherent part of our asset impairment evaluation and the use of different assumptions could produce results that differ from those reported.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

We believe that the carrying amount of our current financial instruments approximates fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments. For non-current financial instruments we use quoted market prices, when available, and discounted cash flows to estimate fair value. See Note 7.

[Table of Contents](#)*Debt Issuance Costs*

Debt issuance costs are included in our Consolidated Balance Sheets in “Other assets” and are amortized over the respective terms of the related debt.

Income Taxes

We account for income taxes in accordance with accounting standards that require the recognition of the amount of taxes payable or refundable for the current year and an asset and liability approach in recognizing the amount of deferred tax liabilities and assets for the future tax consequences of events that have been currently recognized in our financial statements or tax returns. In each of our tax jurisdictions we recognize a current tax liability or asset for the estimated taxes payable or refundable on tax returns for the current year and a deferred tax asset or liability for the estimated future tax effects attributable to temporary differences and carryforwards. Deferred tax assets are reduced by a valuation allowance, if necessary, which is determined by the amount of any tax benefits that, based on available evidence, are not expected to be realized under a “more likely than not” approach. We make judgments regarding future events and related estimates especially as they pertain to the forecasting of our effective tax rate, the potential realization of deferred tax assets such as utilization of foreign tax credits, and exposure to the disallowance of items deducted on tax returns upon audit.

We record interest related to accrued unrecognized tax positions in interest expense and recognize penalties associated with uncertain tax positions in our tax expense. See Note 13.

Treasury Stock

Depending on market conditions, we may, from time to time, purchase shares of our common stock in the open market or otherwise. We account for the purchase of treasury stock using the cost method, which reports the cost of the shares acquired in “Treasury stock” as a deduction from stockholders’ equity in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We did not repurchase any shares of our outstanding common stock during 2011, 2010 or 2009.

Comprehensive Income (Loss)

Comprehensive income (loss) is the change in equity of a business enterprise during a period from transactions and other events and circumstances except those transactions resulting from investments by owners and distributions to owners. Comprehensive income (loss) for the three years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 includes net income (loss) and unrealized holding gains and losses on marketable securities and financial derivatives designated as cash flow accounting hedges. See Note 10.

Foreign Currency

Our functional currency is the U.S. dollar. Foreign currency transaction gains and losses are reported as “Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)” in our Consolidated Statements of Operations and include, when applicable, unrealized gains and losses to record the carrying value of our FOREX contracts not designated as accounting hedges, as well as realized gains and losses from the settlement of such contracts. For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we recognized aggregate net foreign currency gains (losses) of \$(8.6) million, \$1.4 million and \$11.5 million, respectively. See Note 6.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue from our dayrate drilling contracts is recognized as services are performed. In connection with such drilling contracts, we may receive fees (either lump-sum or dayrate) for the mobilization of equipment. These fees are earned as services are performed over the initial term of the related drilling contracts. We defer mobilization fees received, as well as direct and incremental mobilization costs incurred, and amortize each, on a straight line basis, over the term of the related drilling contracts (which is the period we estimate to be benefited from the mobilization activity). Straight line amortization of mobilization revenues and related costs over the initial term of the related drilling contracts (which generally range from 2 to 60 months) is consistent with the timing of net cash flows generated from the actual drilling services performed. Absent a contract, mobilization costs are recognized as incurred.

From time to time, we may receive fees from our customers for capital improvements to our rigs (either lump-sum or dayrate). We defer such fees received in “Accrued liabilities” and “Other liabilities” in our Consolidated Balance Sheets and recognize these fees into income on a straight-line basis over the period of the related drilling contract. We capitalize the costs of such capital improvements and depreciate them over the estimated useful life of the asset.

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We record reimbursements received for the purchase of supplies, equipment, personnel services and other services provided at the request of our customers in accordance with a contract or agreement, for the gross amount billed to the customer, as “Revenues related to reimbursable expenses” in our Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued Accounting Standards Update, or ASU, No. 2011-05, “Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): *Presentation of Comprehensive Income*,” or ASU 2011-05, which eliminates the option to present components of other comprehensive income, or OCI, as part of the statement of changes in stockholders’ equity, requires the presentation of each component of net income and each component of OCI either in a single continuous statement or in two separate but consecutive statements and also requires presentation of reclassification adjustments on the face of the financial statement. The FASB subsequently deferred the effective date of certain provisions of this standard pertaining to the reclassification of items out of accumulated other comprehensive income, pending the issuance of further guidance on the matter. The remaining portions of ASU 2011-05 are effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011; however, early adoption is permitted. The adoption of ASU 2011-05 will not have an effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-04, “Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): *Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs*,” or ASU 2011-04. ASU 2011-04 clarifies existing fair value measurement and disclosure requirements, amends certain fair value measurement principles and requires additional disclosures about fair value measurements. ASU 2011-04 is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. We will incorporate any additional disclosures in our interim and annual financial statements for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2012.

2. Supplemental Financial Information*Consolidated Balance Sheet Information*

Accounts receivable, net of allowance for bad debts, consists of the following:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
	(In thousands)	
Trade receivables	\$ 555,451	\$ 633,224
Value added tax receivables	11,615	5,003
Interest receivable	2,540	805
Related party receivables	508	538
Other	687	1,944
	570,801	641,514
Allowance for bad debts	(6,867)	(31,908)
Total	\$ 563,934	\$ 609,606

During 2011, we recorded a \$5.7 million provision for bad debts to reserve a portion of the uncollected balance of receivables from one of our current customers in Egypt and recovered \$12.3 million in bad debts, including \$0.2 million from our Egypt customer which had been reserved for in the current year. Recoveries during 2011 also included \$8.4 million in final payments from a previous customer in the North Sea and \$3.7 million from another customer in Egypt for whom we no longer perform work, both of which were reserved for in previous years. In addition, during 2011, we offset \$18.4 million in previously reserved trade receivables against the allowance for bad debts as we had exhausted all methods of recovery against the North Sea customer.

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During 2010, we recovered \$9.7 million in previously reserved bad debts. Recoveries during 2010 included \$4.2 million from a previous customer in the North Sea and \$5.5 million from a previous customer in Egypt. No provision for bad debts was deemed necessary for 2010. In 2009, we recorded a \$10.7 million provision for bad debts to reserve a portion of the uncollected balance of receivables related to our operations in Egypt and recovered \$0.9 million associated with the reserve for bad debts recorded in 2008.

Prepaid expenses and other current assets consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
	(In thousands)	
Rig spare parts and supplies	\$ 52,637	\$ 50,288
Deferred mobilization costs	74,659	76,868
Prepaid insurance	12,417	9,587
Deferred tax assets	6,800	9,557
Deposits	1,549	827
Prepaid taxes	37,612	20,347
FOREX contracts	1,262	4,326
Other	5,634	5,353
Total	\$ 192,570	\$ 177,153

Accrued liabilities consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
	(In thousands)	
Rig operating expenses	\$ 108,342	\$ 77,995
Payroll and benefits	77,055	79,866
Deferred revenue	67,894	69,825
Accrued capital expenditures	22,725	28,947
Interest payable	21,406	21,219
Construction milestone payments	14,600	154,427
Personal injury and other claims	10,536	11,758
Other	13,842	25,153
Total	\$ 336,400	\$ 469,190

At December 31, 2011 and 2010, we had accrued the first installments or construction milestones payable under our rig construction agreements of \$14.6 million and \$154.4 million, respectively. See Notes 8 and 11.

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows Information

We paid interest on long-term debt totaling \$82.9 million, \$83.5 million and \$39.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. We paid \$0.9 million in interest on Internal Revenue Service assessments during the year ended December 31, 2010.

We paid \$150.5 million, \$128.5 million and \$176.2 million in foreign income taxes, net of foreign tax refunds, during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. We paid \$94.8 million, \$427.5 million and \$252.4 million in U.S. federal income taxes during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. We paid state income taxes, net of refunds, of \$0.2 million, \$0.1 million and \$0.2 million during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Cash payments for capital expenditures for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 included \$28.9 million, \$64.9 million and \$59.4 million, respectively, of capital expenditures that were accrued but unpaid on December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Capital expenditures that were accrued but not paid as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 totaled \$37.3 million and \$28.9 million, respectively. We have included these amounts in "Accrued liabilities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2011 and 2010.

We recorded an income tax benefit of \$1.0 million related to the exercise of employee stock options in 2009.

[Table of Contents](#)**3. Stock-Based Compensation**

Our Second Amended and Restated 2000 Stock Option Plan, as amended, or Stock Plan, provides for the issuance of either incentive stock options or non-qualified stock options to our employees, consultants and non-employee directors. Our Stock Plan also authorizes the award of stock appreciation rights, or SARs, in tandem with stock options or separately. The maximum aggregate number of shares of our common stock for which stock options or SARs may be granted is 1,500,000 shares. The exercise price per share may not be less than the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant. Generally, stock options and SARs vest ratably over a four year period and expire in ten years.

Total compensation cost recognized for Stock Plan transactions for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was \$5.0 million, \$6.0 million and \$6.5 million, respectively. Tax benefits recognized for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 related thereto were \$1.7 million, \$2.0 million and \$2.1 million, respectively.

The fair value of options and SARs granted under the Stock Plan during each of the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was estimated using the Black Scholes pricing model.

The following are the weighted average assumptions used in estimating the fair value of our options and SARs:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Expected life of stock options/SARs (in years)	5	5	5
Expected volatility	30.37%	35.99%	37.24%
Dividend yield	.76%	.70%	.62%
Risk free interest rate	1.54%	1.88%	2.17%

Expected life of stock options and SARs is based on historical data as is the expected volatility. The dividend yield is based on the current approved regular dividend rate in effect and the current market price at the time of grant. Risk free interest rates are determined using the U.S. Treasury yield curve at time of grant with a term equal to the expected life of the options and SARs.

A summary of activity under the Stock Plan as of December 31, 2011 and changes during the year then ended is as follows:

	Number of Awards	Weighted- Average Exercise Price	Weighted- Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (In Thousands)
Awards outstanding at January 1, 2011	821,524	\$ 89.66		
Granted	201,200	\$ 66.59		
Exercised	(3,376)	\$ 63.78		
Forfeited	(9,996)	\$ 79.76		
Expired	(11,192)	\$ 106.41		
Awards outstanding at December 31, 2011	<u>998,160</u>	\$ 85.01	7.3	\$ 435
Awards exercisable at December 31, 2011	<u>636,920</u>	\$ 90.53	6.5	\$ 435

The weighted-average grant date fair values of awards granted during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 were \$18.17, \$23.62 and \$28.46, respectively. The total intrinsic value of awards exercised during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was \$28,000, \$8,000 and \$1.5 million, respectively. The total fair value of awards vested during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was \$5.4 million, \$6.6 million and \$6.6 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2011 there was \$5.8 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to nonvested stock options and SARs granted under the Stock Plan which we expect to recognize over a weighted average period of 2.3 years.

[Table of Contents](#)**4. Earnings Per Share**

A reconciliation of the numerators and the denominators of the basic and diluted per-share computations follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands, except per share data)		
Net income – basic (numerator):	\$ 962,542	\$ 955,457	\$ 1,376,219
Effect of dilutive potential shares Convertible debentures	—	56	94
Net income including conversions – diluted (numerator):	\$ 962,542	\$ 955,513	\$ 1,376,313
Weighted-average shares – basic (denominator):	139,027	139,026	139,007
Effect of dilutive potential shares			
Convertible debentures	—	21	51
Stock options and stock appreciation rights	11	23	39
Weighted-average shares including conversions – diluted (denominator):	139,038	139,070	139,097
Earnings per share:			
Basic	\$ 6.92	\$ 6.87	\$ 9.90
Diluted	\$ 6.92	\$ 6.87	\$ 9.89

The following table sets forth the share effects of stock options and the number of stock appreciation rights excluded from our computations of diluted earnings per share, or EPS, as the inclusion of such potentially dilutive shares would have been antidilutive for the periods presented:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Employee and director:			
Stock options	19	11	8
Stock appreciation rights	847	584	414

[Table of Contents](#)**5. Marketable Securities**

We report our investments in marketable securities as current assets in our Consolidated Balance Sheets in “Marketable securities,” representing the investment of cash available for current operations.

Our investments in marketable securities are classified as available for sale and are summarized as follows:

	December 31, 2011		
	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Market Value
	(In thousands)		
U.S. Treasury Bills/U.S. Treasury Notes (due within one year)	\$ 902,042	\$ (59)	\$901,983
Mortgage-backed securities	394	37	431
Total	\$ 902,436	\$ (22)	\$902,414

	December 31, 2010		
	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gain	Market Value
	(In thousands)		
U.S. Treasury Bills (due within one year)	\$ 599,965	\$ 15	\$599,980
Corporate bonds	11,200	560	11,760
Mortgage-backed securities	553	53	606
Total	\$ 611,718	\$ 628	\$612,346

Proceeds from maturities and sales of marketable securities and gross realized gains and losses are summarized as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Proceeds from maturities	\$5,350,000	\$ 5,450,000	\$1,925,000
Proceeds from sales	12,138	230	2,548,891
Gross realized gains	784	—	791
Gross realized losses	(5)	(7)	(172)

6. Derivative Financial Instruments*Foreign Currency Forward Exchange Contracts*

Our international operations expose us to foreign exchange risk associated with our costs payable in foreign currencies for employee compensation, foreign income tax payments and purchases from foreign suppliers. We may utilize FOREX contracts to reduce our foreign exchange risk. Our FOREX contracts may obligate us to exchange predetermined amounts of foreign currencies on specified dates or to net settle the spread between the contracted foreign currency exchange rate and the spot rate on the contract settlement date, which, for most of our contracts, is the average spot rate for the contract period.

We enter into FOREX contracts when we believe market conditions are favorable to purchase contracts for future settlement with the expectation that such contracts, when settled, will reduce our exposure to foreign currency gains and losses on future foreign currency expenditures. The amount and duration of such contracts is based on our monthly forecast of expenditures in the significant currencies in which we do business and for which there is a financial market (*i.e.*, Australian dollars, Brazilian reais, British pounds sterling, Mexican pesos and Norwegian kroner). These forward contracts are derivatives as defined by GAAP.

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During the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, we settled FOREX contracts with aggregate notional values of approximately \$318.9 million and \$332.5 million, respectively, of which the entire aggregate amounts were designated as an accounting hedge. During the year ended December 31, 2009, we settled FOREX contracts with an aggregate notional value of approximately \$333.4 million, of which an aggregate notional value of \$112.8 million was designated as an accounting hedge.

The following table presents the amounts recognized in our Consolidated Statements of Operations related to our FOREX contracts designated as hedging instruments for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

Location of Gain Recognized in Income	Amount of Gain Recognized in Income For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Contract drilling expense	\$7,206	\$3,307	\$8,895

The following table presents the amounts recognized in our Consolidated Statements of Operations related to our FOREX contracts not designated as hedging instruments for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

Location of Gain Recognized in Income	Amount of Gain Recognized in Income For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	\$ —	\$ —	\$8,856

The amounts presented in the table above for the year ended December 31, 2009 include net unrealized gains aggregating \$37.3 million to record the carrying value of our derivative financial instruments to their fair value. There were no gains or losses associated with FOREX contracts not designated as accounting hedges during the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010.

As of December 31, 2011, we had FOREX contracts outstanding in the aggregate notional amount of \$154.3 million, consisting of \$21.9 million in Australian dollars, \$81.6 million in Brazilian reais, \$25.2 million in British pounds sterling, \$14.1 million in Mexican pesos and \$11.5 million in Norwegian kroner. These contracts generally settle monthly through June 2012. As of December 31, 2011, all outstanding derivative contracts had been designated as cash flow hedges.

The following table presents the fair values of our derivative financial instruments at December 31, 2011 and 2010.

Balance Sheet Location	Fair Value		Balance Sheet Location	Fair Value	
	December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010		December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010
	(In thousands)			(In thousands)	
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$ 1,262	\$ 4,326	Accrued liabilities	\$ (8,454)	\$ (121)

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The following table presents the amounts recognized in our Consolidated Balance Sheets and Consolidated Statements of Operations related to our FOREX contracts designated as cash flow hedges for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

	For the years ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Amount of (loss) gain recognized in AOCGL on derivative (effective portion)	\$ (962)	\$ 3,591	\$ 9,838
Location of gain reclassified from AOCGL into income (effective portion)	Contract drilling, excluding depreciation	Contract drilling, excluding depreciation	Contract drilling, excluding depreciation
Amount of gain reclassified from AOCGL into income (effective portion)	\$ 10,351	\$ 1,790	\$ 7,434
Location of loss recognized in income on derivative (ineffective portion and amount excluded from effectiveness testing)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)
Amount of loss recognized in income on derivative (ineffective portion and amount excluded from effectiveness testing)	\$ (85)	\$ —	\$ —

As of December 31, 2011, the estimated amount of net unrealized losses associated with our FOREX contracts that will be reclassified to earnings during the next twelve months was \$7.1 million. The net unrealized losses associated with these derivative financial instruments will be reclassified to contract drilling expense.

7. Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures

Concentrations of Credit and Market Risk

Financial instruments which potentially subject us to significant concentrations of credit or market risk consist primarily of periodic temporary investments of excess cash, trade accounts receivable and investments in debt securities, including mortgage-backed securities. We generally place our excess cash investments in U.S. government backed short-term money market instruments through several financial institutions. At times, such investments may be in excess of the insurable limit. We periodically evaluate the relative credit standing of these financial institutions as part of our investment strategy.

Most of our investments in debt securities are U.S. government securities with minimal credit risk. However, we are exposed to market risk due to price volatility associated with interest rate fluctuations.

Concentrations of credit risk with respect to our trade accounts receivable are limited primarily due to the entities comprising our customer base. Since the market for our services is the offshore oil and gas industry, this customer base consists primarily of major and independent oil and gas companies and government-owned oil companies. Our two largest customers in Brazil, *Petróleo Brasileiro S.A.* (a Brazilian multinational energy company that is majority-owned by the Brazilian government) and *OGX Petróleo e Gás Ltda.* (a privately owned Brazilian oil and natural gas company), accounted for \$110.4 million and \$69.4 million, or 20% and 12%, respectively, of our total consolidated gross trade accounts receivable balances as of December 31, 2011, and \$180.8 million and \$52.4 million, or 29% and 8%, respectively, as of December 31, 2010.

In general, before working for a customer with whom we have not had a prior business relationship and/or whose financial stability may be uncertain to us, we perform a credit review on that company. Based on that analysis, we may require that the customer present a letter of credit, prepay or provide other credit enhancements. Historically, we have not experienced significant losses on our trade receivables. We record a provision for bad debts on a case-by-case basis when facts and circumstances indicate that a customer receivable may not be collectible. Our allowance for bad debts was \$6.9 million and \$31.9 million at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. See Note 2.

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During 2009, we amended an existing contractual agreement at a customer's request to provide short-term financial relief. The amended contract obligates the customer to pay us, over the term of the six-well drilling program, an aggregate drilling rate of \$560,000 per day, consisting of \$75,000 per day payable in accordance with our normal credit terms (due 30 days after receipt of invoice) and the remainder of the contractual dayrate, \$485,000 per day, payable through the conveyance of a 27% net profits interest, or NPI, in certain developmental oil-and-gas producing properties.

At December 31, 2011, the six-well drilling program had been completed and \$95.8 million was payable to us from the NPI. We expect to receive the balance within the next twelve months and have presented this amount in "Accounts receivable, net of allowance for bad debts" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. At December 31, 2011, we believe that collectability of the amount owed pursuant to the NPI arrangement was reasonably assured.

At December 31, 2010, \$85.0 million was payable to us from the NPI, of which \$49.6 million and \$35.4 million were presented as "Accounts receivable, net of allowance for bad debts" and "Long-term receivable," respectively, in our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Fair Values

The amounts reported in our Consolidated Balance Sheets for cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities, accounts receivable, forward exchange contracts, long-term receivables, and accounts payable approximate fair value. Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments are shown below.

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2011		2010	
	Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value
	(In millions)			
4.875% Senior Notes	\$272.9	\$ 249.8	\$270.0	\$ 249.7
5.15% Senior Notes	272.7	249.8	271.1	249.7
5.70% Senior Notes	555.0	496.8	493.1	496.8
5.875% Senior Notes	575.4	499.4	550.9	499.4

We have estimated the fair value amounts by using appropriate valuation methodologies and information available to management as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Considerable judgment is required in developing these estimates, and accordingly, no assurance can be given that the estimated values are indicative of the amounts that would be realized in a free market exchange. The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate the fair value of each class of financial instrument for which it was practicable to estimate that value:

- *Cash and cash equivalents* — The carrying amounts approximate fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments.
- *Marketable securities* — The fair values of the debt securities, including residential mortgage-backed securities, available for sale were based on the quoted closing market prices on December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.
- *Accounts receivable and accounts payable* — The carrying amounts approximate fair value based on the nature of the instruments.
- *Forward exchange contracts* — The fair value of our FOREX contracts was based on both quoted market prices and valuations derived from pricing models on December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.
- *Long-term receivable* — The carrying amount approximates fair value based on the nature of the instrument.
- *Long-term debt* — The fair value of our 5.70% Senior Notes due 2039, or 5.70% Senior Notes, 5.875% Senior Notes due 2019, or 5.875% Senior Notes, 4.875% Senior Notes due July 1, 2015, or 4.875% Senior Notes, and 5.15% Senior Notes due September 1, 2014, or 5.15% Senior Notes, was based on the quoted closing market price on December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively, from brokers of these instruments.

Certain of our assets and liabilities are required to be measured at fair value in accordance with GAAP. Fair value is defined as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market

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participants on the measurement date. The fair value hierarchy prescribed by GAAP requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. There are three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

- Level 1 Quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets. Level 1 assets include short-term investments such as money market funds, U.S. Treasury Bills and Treasury notes. Our Level 1 assets at December 31, 2011 consisted of cash held in money market funds of \$303.9 million and investments in U.S. Treasury securities of \$902.0 million. Our Level 1 assets at December 31, 2010 consisted of cash held in money market funds of \$442.2 million and investments in U.S. Treasury Bills of \$600.0 million.
- Level 2 Quoted market prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. Level 2 assets and liabilities include residential mortgage-backed securities and over-the-counter FOREX contracts. Our residential mortgage-backed securities are valued using a model-derived valuation technique based on the quoted closing market prices received from a financial institution. Our FOREX contracts are valued based on quoted market prices, which are derived from observable inputs including current spot and forward rates, less the contract rate multiplied by the notional amount. The inputs used in our valuation are obtained from a Bloomberg curve analysis which uses par coupon swap rates to calculate implied forward rates so that projected floating rate cash flows can be calculated. The valuation techniques underlying the models are widely accepted in the financial services industry and do not involve significant judgment.
- Level 3 Valuations derived from valuation techniques in which one or more significant inputs or significant value drivers are unobservable. Level 3 assets and liabilities generally include financial instruments whose value is determined using pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies, or similar techniques, as well as instruments for which the determination of fair value requires significant management judgment or estimation or for which there is a lack of transparency as to the inputs used.

Market conditions could cause an instrument to be reclassified among Levels 1, 2 and 3. Our policy regarding fair value measurements of financial instruments transferred into and out of levels is to reflect the transfers as having occurred at the beginning of the reporting period.

Assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below:

	December 31, 2011			
	Fair Value Measurements Using			Assets at
			Level	Fair
	Level 1	Level 2	3	Value
	(In thousands)			
Assets:				
Short-term investments	\$1,205,925	\$ —	\$ —	\$1,205,925
FOREX contracts	—	1,262	—	1,262
Mortgage-backed securities	—	431	—	431
Total assets	\$1,205,925	\$ 1,693	\$ —	\$1,207,618
Liabilities:				
FOREX contracts	\$ —	\$(8,454)	\$ —	\$ (8,454)

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	December 31, 2010		
	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Level		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	(In thousands)		
Assets:			
Short-term investments	\$1,042,224	\$ —	\$ —
FOREX contracts	—	4,327	—
Corporate bonds	—	11,760	—
Mortgage-backed securities	—	606	—
Total assets	\$1,042,224	\$16,693	\$ —
Liabilities:			
FOREX contracts	\$ —	\$ (121)	\$ —

8. Drilling and Other Property and Equipment

Cost and accumulated depreciation of drilling and other property and equipment are summarized as follows:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
	(In thousands)	
Drilling rigs and equipment	\$ 7,431,713	\$ 7,163,196
Construction work-in-progress	504,805	—
Land and buildings	60,926	56,536
Office equipment and other	49,035	44,689
Cost	8,046,479	7,264,421
Less accumulated depreciation	(3,379,010)	(2,980,629)
Drilling and other property and equipment, net	\$ 4,667,469	\$ 4,283,792

Construction work-in-progress at December 31, 2011 included \$14.6 million and \$490.2 million related to the construction of the *Ocean Onyx* and our three drillships, respectively. At December 31, 2010, we had recorded the first \$154.4 million payable under our initial drillship construction agreement as “Other Assets” in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. During 2011, we entered into two additional drillship construction agreements and also recorded the first installments paid under these agreements as “Other Assets” in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We transferred aggregate payments of \$478.3 million related to our drillships into construction work-in-progress in August 2011 and commenced capitalization of interest. See Note 11.

9. Long-Term Debt

Our long-term debt is comprised as follows:

Name of Issue	Aggregate Principal Amount (In millions)	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate	Semiannual Interest Payment Dates
5.15% Senior Notes	\$250.0	September 1, 2014	5.15%	March 1 and September 1
4.875% Senior Notes	\$250.0	July 1, 2015	4.875%	January 1 and July 1
5.875% Senior Notes	\$500.0	May 1, 2019	5.875%	May 1 and November 1
5.70% Senior Notes	\$500.0	October 15, 2039	5.70%	April 15 and October 15

Our 5.70% Senior Notes, 5.875% Senior Notes, 4.875% Senior Notes and 5.15% Senior Notes are all unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and rank equal in right of payment to its existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness, and will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future obligations of our subsidiaries. We have the right to redeem all or a portion of these notes for cash at any time or from time to time, on at least 15 days but not more than 60 days prior written notice, at the redemption price specified in the governing indenture plus accrued and unpaid interest to the date of redemption.

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The effective interest rate for each of our senior notes approximates the stated coupon interest rate.

At December 31, 2011 and 2010, the carrying value of our long-term debt was as follows:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
	(In thousands)	
5.15% Senior Notes	\$ 249,811	\$ 249,745
4.875% Senior Notes	249,779	249,724
5.875% Senior Notes	499,414	499,351
5.70% Senior Notes	496,819	496,773
Total	\$ 1,495,823	\$ 1,495,593

As of December 31, 2011, the aggregate annual maturity of our long-term debt was as follows:

(In thousands)	
2012	\$ —
2013	—
2014	249,811
2015	249,779
2016	—
Thereafter	996,233
Total	\$1,495,823

10. Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

The components of our other comprehensive income (loss) and the associated income tax effects allocated to such components are as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2011		
	Before Tax	Tax Effect	Net-of-Tax
	(In thousands)		
FOREX contracts:			
Unrealized holding loss	\$ (962)	\$ 337	\$ (625)
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(10,351)	3,623	(6,728)
Net unrealized loss on FOREX contracts	(11,313)	3,960	(7,353)
Investments in marketable securities:			
Unrealized holding loss	(61)	15	(46)
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(589)	205	(384)
Net unrealized loss on marketable securities	(650)	220	(430)
Other comprehensive loss	\$(11,963)	\$4,180	\$ (7,783)

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	Year Ended December 31, 2010		
	Before Tax	Tax Effect	Net-of-Tax
	(In thousands)		
FOREX contracts:			
Unrealized holding gain	\$ 3,591	\$ (1,257)	\$ 2,334
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(1,790)	626	(1,164)
Net unrealized gain on FOREX contracts	1,801	(631)	1,170
Investments in marketable securities:			
Unrealized holding gain	528	(185)	343
Reclassification adjustment for loss included in net income	36	(13)	23
Net unrealized gain on marketable securities	564	(198)	366
Other comprehensive income	\$ 2,365	\$ (829)	\$ 1,536

	Year Ended December 31, 2009		
	Before Tax	Tax Effect	Net-of-Tax
	(In thousands)		
FOREX contracts:			
Unrealized holding gain	\$ 9,838	\$ (3,443)	\$ 6,395
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(7,434)	2,602	(4,832)
Net unrealized gain on FOREX contracts	2,404	(841)	1,563
Investments in marketable securities:			
Unrealized holding gain	63	(22)	41
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(783)	274	(509)
Net unrealized loss on marketable securities	(720)	252	(468)
Other comprehensive income	\$ 1,684	\$ (589)	\$ 1,095

The components of our accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) included in our Consolidated Balance Sheets are as follows:

	Unrealized Gain (Loss) on		Total Other
	FOREX Contracts	Marketable Securities	Comprehensive Income (Loss)
	(In thousands)		
Balance at January 1, 2010	\$ 1,563	\$ 42	\$ 1605
Other comprehensive gain	1,170	366	1,536
Balance at December 31, 2010	2,733	408	3,141
Other comprehensive loss	(7,353)	(430)	(7,783)
Balance at December 31, 2011	\$ (4,620)	\$ (22)	\$ (4,642)

11. Commitments and Contingencies

Various claims have been filed against us in the ordinary course of business, including claims by offshore workers alleging personal injuries. With respect to each claim or exposure, we have made an assessment, in accordance with GAAP, of the probability that the resolution of the matter would ultimately result in a loss. When we determine that an unfavorable resolution of a matter is probable and such amount of loss can be determined, we record a liability for the amount of the estimated loss at the time that both of these criteria are met. Our management believes that we have recorded adequate accruals for any liabilities that may reasonably be expected to result from these claims.

Litigation. We are one of several unrelated defendants in 30 lawsuits filed in Louisiana and Mississippi state courts alleging that defendants manufactured, distributed or utilized drilling mud containing asbestos and, in our case, allowed such drilling mud to have been utilized aboard our offshore drilling rigs. The plaintiffs seek, among

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other things, an award of unspecified compensatory and punitive damages. The manufacture and use of asbestos-containing drilling mud had already ceased before we acquired any of the drilling rigs addressed in these lawsuits. We believe that we are not liable for the damages asserted and we expect to receive complete defense and indemnity with respect to a majority of the lawsuits from Murphy Exploration & Production Company pursuant to the terms of our 1992 asset purchase agreement with them. We also believe that we are not liable for the damages asserted in the remaining lawsuits pursuant to the terms of our 1989 asset purchase agreement with Diamond M Corporation, and we have filed a declaratory judgment action in Texas state court against NuStar Energy LP, the successor to Diamond M Corporation, seeking a judicial determination that we did not assume liability for these claims. We are unable to estimate our potential exposure, if any, to these lawsuits at this time but do not believe that ultimate liability, if any, resulting from this litigation will have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Various other claims have been filed against us in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of our management, no pending or known threatened claims, actions or proceedings against us are expected to have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

We intend to defend these matters vigorously; however, we cannot predict with certainty the outcome or effect of any litigation matters specifically described above or any other pending litigation or claims. There can be no assurance as to the ultimate outcome of these lawsuits.

Personal Injury Claims. Our deductibles for marine liability insurance coverage, including personal injury claims, which primarily result from Jones Act liability in the Gulf of Mexico, are currently \$10.0 million per the first occurrence, with no aggregate deductible, and vary in amounts ranging between \$5.0 million and, if aggregate claims exceed certain thresholds, up to \$100.0 million for each subsequent occurrence, depending on the nature, severity and frequency of claims which might arise during the policy year. The Jones Act is a federal law that permits seamen to seek compensation for certain injuries during the course of their employment on a vessel and governs the liability of vessel operators and marine employers for the work-related injury or death of an employee. We engage outside consultants to assist us in estimating our aggregate liability for personal injury claims based on our historical losses and utilizing various actuarial models. We allocate a portion of the aggregate liability to “Accrued liabilities” based on an estimate of claims expected to be paid within the next twelve months with the residual recorded as “Other liabilities.” At December 31, 2011, our estimated liability for personal injury claims was \$32.7 million, of which \$10.1 million and \$22.6 million were recorded in “Accrued liabilities” and “Other liabilities,” respectively, in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. At December 31, 2010, our estimated liability for personal injury claims was \$35.0 million, of which \$11.1 million and \$23.9 million were recorded in “Accrued liabilities” and “Other liabilities,” respectively, in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. The eventual settlement or adjudication of these claims could differ materially from our estimated amounts due to uncertainties such as:

- the severity of personal injuries claimed;
- significant changes in the volume of personal injury claims;
- the unpredictability of legal jurisdictions where the claims will ultimately be litigated;
- inconsistent court decisions; and
- the risks and lack of predictability inherent in personal injury litigation.

Purchase Obligations. In December 2011, we entered into an agreement with Keppel AmFELS, L.L.C., or Keppel, for the construction of a moored semisubmersible rig designed to operate in water depths up to 6,000 feet. The rig, to be named the *Ocean Onyx*, will be constructed utilizing the hull of one of our mid-water floaters that previously operated as the *Ocean Voyager*. The project is estimated to be completed in the third quarter of 2013 at an aggregate cost of approximately \$300 million, including commissioning, spares and project management costs. The contracted price due to Keppel for the construction of the rig is payable in 11 installments based on the occurrence of certain events as detailed in the vessel modification agreement. The first milestone payment in the amount of \$14.6 million was payable upon signing of the agreement and was accrued in “Accrued liabilities” in our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2011.

In addition, since December 2010, we have entered into three separate turnkey contracts with Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., Ltd., or Hyundai, for the construction of three dynamically positioned, ultra-deepwater drillships, with deliveries scheduled for the second and fourth quarters of 2013 and in the second quarter of 2014. The aggregate cost of the three drillships, including commissioning, spares and project management, is expected to be approximately \$1.8 billion.

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The contracted price of each drillship is payable in two installments. At December 31, 2010, we had accrued the initial installment payable to Hyundai for the first drillship of \$154.4 million in "Accrued liabilities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. The first installments for all three drillships, aggregating \$478.3 million, were paid in the first and second quarters of 2011.

At December 31, 2011 and 2010, we had no other purchase obligations for major rig upgrades or any other significant obligations, except for those related to our direct rig operations, which arise during the normal course of business.

Operating Leases. We lease office and yard facilities, housing, equipment and vehicles under operating leases, which expire at various times through the year 2015. Total rent expense amounted to \$9.3 million, \$8.0 million and \$6.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Future minimum rental payments under leases are approximately \$1.8 million, \$1.1 million, \$0.7 million and \$0.1 million for the years ending December 31, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively. There are no minimum future rental payments under leases after 2015.

Letters of Credit and Other. We were contingently liable as of December 31, 2011 in the amount of \$108.4 million under certain performance, bid, supersedeas, tax appeal and custom bonds and letters of credit that included one \$11.8 million bond, which had been purchased from a related party after obtaining competitive quotes. Agreements relating to approximately \$88.2 million of performance bonds can require collateral at any time. As of December 31, 2011, we had not been required to make any collateral deposits with respect to these agreements. The remaining agreements cannot require collateral except in events of default. On our behalf, banks have issued letters of credit securing certain of these bonds.

12. Related-Party Transactions

Transactions with Loews. We are party to a services agreement with Loews, or the Services Agreement, pursuant to which Loews performs certain administrative and technical services on our behalf. Such services include personnel, internal auditing, accounting, and cash management services, in addition to advice and assistance with respect to preparation of tax returns and obtaining insurance. Under the Services Agreement, we are required to reimburse Loews for (i) allocated personnel costs (such as salaries, employee benefits and payroll taxes) of the Loews personnel actually providing such services and (ii) all out-of-pocket expenses related to the provision of such services. The Services Agreement may be terminated at our option upon 30 days' notice to Loews and at the option of Loews upon six months' notice to us. In addition, we have agreed to indemnify Loews for all claims and damages arising from the provision of services by Loews under the Services Agreement unless due to the gross negligence or willful misconduct of Loews. We were charged \$1.1 million, \$1.3 million and \$1.1 million by Loews for these support functions during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

In addition, since 2006 we have purchased performance and appeal bonds in support of our drilling operations offshore Mexico and workers compensation claims, respectively, from affiliates of a majority-owned subsidiary of Loews after obtaining competitive quotes. At December 31, 2011, one such performance bond totaling \$11.8 million was outstanding. Premiums and fees associated with bonds purchased from affiliates totaled \$80,000, \$58,000 and \$213,000 in 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Transactions with Other Related Parties. We hire marine vessels and helicopter transportation services at the prevailing market rate from subsidiaries of SEACOR Holdings Inc. The Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer of SEACOR Holdings Inc. is also a member of our Board of Directors. For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we paid \$0.1 million, \$3.1 million and \$3.6 million, respectively, for the hire of such vessels and such services.

During the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 we made payments of \$1.2 million, \$1.0 million and \$2.1 million, respectively, to Ernst & Young LLP for tax and other consulting services. The wife of our President and Chief Executive Officer is an audit partner at this firm.

[Table of Contents](#)**13. Income Taxes**

Our income tax expense is a function of the mix between our domestic and international pre-tax earnings or losses, as well as the mix of international tax jurisdictions in which we operate. Certain of our international rigs are owned and operated, directly or indirectly, by Diamond Offshore International Limited, or DOIL, a Cayman Islands subsidiary which we wholly own. It is our intention to indefinitely reinvest future earnings of DOIL and its foreign subsidiaries to finance foreign activities. Accordingly, we have not made a provision for U.S. income taxes on approximately \$1.7 billion of undistributed foreign earnings and profits. Although we do not intend to repatriate the earnings of DOIL, and have not provided U.S. income taxes for such earnings, except to the extent that such earnings were immediately subject to U.S. income taxes, these earnings could become subject to U.S. income tax if remitted, or if deemed remitted as a dividend; however, it is not practical to estimate this potential liability.

In 2010 we had provided \$15.0 million for U.S. taxes attributable to undistributed earnings of Diamond East Asia Limited, or DEAL, a wholly owned subsidiary of DOIL, as it had been our intention to repatriate its earnings to the U.S. However, a tax law provision that expired at the end of 2009, but was subsequently signed back into law on December 17, 2010, in conjunction with our decisions to build three new drillships overseas, caused us to reassess our intent to repatriate the earnings of DEAL to the U.S. We now plan to reinvest the earnings of DEAL internationally through another of our foreign subsidiaries, and consequently, we are no longer providing U.S. income taxes on its earnings. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we reversed the \$15.0 million of U.S. income taxes that had been provided in 2010 for the earnings of DEAL.

The components of income tax expense (benefit) are as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Federal – current	\$ 109,684	\$ 183,825	\$ 255,753
State – current	264	191	131
Foreign – current	104,640	203,459	150,804
Total current	214,588	387,475	406,688
Federal – deferred	(1,023)	8,287	80,258
Foreign – deferred	3,164	(15,203)	5,266
Total deferred	2,141	(6,916)	85,524
Total	\$ 216,729	\$ 380,559	\$ 492,212

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The difference between actual income tax expense and the tax provision computed by applying the statutory federal income tax rate to income before taxes is attributable to the following:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Income before income tax expense:			
U.S.	\$ 486,393	\$ 755,982	\$ 1,250,094
Foreign	692,878	580,034	618,337
Worldwide	\$ 1,179,271	\$ 1,336,016	\$ 1,868,431
Expected income tax expense at federal statutory rate	\$ 412,745	\$ 467,606	\$ 653,951
Foreign earnings of foreign subsidiaries (not taxed at the statutory federal income tax rate) net of related foreign taxes	(192,975)	(191,789)	(184,783)
Foreign earnings of foreign subsidiaries for which U.S. federal income taxes have been provided	(14,681)	29,736	62,025
Foreign taxes of domestic and foreign subsidiaries for which U.S. federal income taxes have also been provided	65,521	119,009	111,381
Foreign tax credits	(67,232)	(89,809)	(167,756)
Reduction of deferred tax liability related to a goodwill deduction resulting from a prior period stock acquisition	(2,950)	(8,850)	(8,850)
Domestic production activities deduction	—	—	(6,271)
Uncertain tax positions	(7,733)	30,950	8,003
Amortization of deferred charges associated with intercompany rig sales to other tax jurisdictions	29,556	30,442	14,167
Long-term capital gain on dividend distribution	—	—	2,450
Net expense (benefit) in connection with resolutions of tax issues and adjustments relating to prior years	(6,085)	(7,346)	6,916
Other	563	610	979
Income tax expense	\$ 216,729	\$ 380,559	\$ 492,212

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Significant components of our deferred income tax assets and liabilities are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
	(In thousands)	
Deferred tax assets:		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	\$ 27,212	\$ 34,824
Goodwill	—	1,049
Worker's compensation and other current accruals (1)	15,487	17,178
Disputed receivables reserved	6	2,521
Deferred compensation	4,504	7,478
Foreign contribution taxes	5,615	3,100
Foreign tax credits	—	186
Nonqualified stock options and SARs	7,538	6,048
Other	2,212	3,133
Total deferred tax assets	62,574	75,517
Valuation allowance for foreign tax credits	—	(186)
Valuation allowance for NOLs	(26,353)	(31,916)
Net deferred tax assets	36,221	43,415
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Depreciation	(558,915)	(558,346)
Unbilled revenue	(3,216)	(347)
Mobilization	(3,939)	(2,181)
Undistributed earnings of foreign subsidiaries	(24)	(15,023)
Other	(141)	(219)
Total deferred tax liabilities	(566,235)	(576,116)
Net deferred tax liability	\$ (530,014)	\$ (532,701)

(1)\$6.8 million and \$9.6 million reflected in "Prepaid expenses and other current assets" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. See Note 2.

We record a valuation allowance to derecognize a portion of our deferred tax assets, which we do not expect to be ultimately realized. A summary of changes in the valuation allowance is as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Valuation allowance as of January 1	\$ 32,102	\$ 30,975	\$ 29,087
Establishment of valuation allowances:			
Foreign tax credits	(186)	79	107
Net operating losses	1,844	13,381	2,025
Releases of valuation allowances in various jurisdictions	(7,407)	(12,333)	(244)
Valuation allowance as of December 31	\$ 26,353	\$ 32,102	\$ 30,975

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Our income tax returns are subject to review and examination in the various jurisdictions in which we operate and we are currently contesting various tax assessments. We accrue for income tax contingencies, or uncertain tax positions, that we believe are more likely than not exposures. A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits, excluding interest and penalties, is as follows:

	Long term Tax Receivable	Long term Tax Payable	Net Liability for Uncertain Tax Positions
(In thousands)			
Balance at January 1, 2009	\$ 5,534	\$(29,231)	\$ (23,697)
Reduction based on tax positions related to a prior year	—	(4,557)	(4,557)
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	2,441	(6,781)	(4,340)
Reductions as a result of a lapse of the applicable statute of limitations	(1,504)	7,090	5,586
Balance at December 31, 2009	\$ 6,471	\$(33,479)	\$ (27,008)
Additions based on tax positions related to a prior year	—	(15,764)	(15,764)
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	565	(3,729)	(3,164)
Balance at December 31, 2010	\$ 7,036	\$(52,972)	\$ (45,936)
Reduction based on tax positions related to a prior year	—	1,851	1,851
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	145	(1,045)	(900)
Reductions as a result of a lapse of the applicable statute of limitations	—	3,744	3,744
Balance at December 31, 2011	<u>\$ 7,181</u>	<u>\$(48,422)</u>	<u>\$ (41,241)</u>

At December 31, 2011, all \$41.2 million of the net unrecognized tax benefits would affect the effective tax rate if recognized.

We record interest related to accrued unrecognized tax positions in interest expense and recognize penalties associated with uncertain tax positions in our tax expense. During the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, we recognized \$0.2 million and \$4.8 million of interest expense related to uncertain tax positions, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2009, we recorded a net reduction to interest expense of \$3.4 million. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we recorded a net reduction to penalty related tax expense for uncertain tax positions of \$3.0 million. Penalty related tax expense for uncertain tax positions during the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 was \$12.0 million and \$4.7 million, respectively. Accruals for the payment of interest and penalties in our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2011 and 2010 were \$31.4 million and \$34.2 million, respectively.

In several of the international locations in which we operate, certain of our wholly-owned subsidiaries enter into agreements with other of our wholly-owned subsidiaries to provide specialized services and equipment in support of our foreign operations. We apply a transfer pricing methodology to determine the amount to be charged for providing the services and equipment. In most cases, there are alternative transfer pricing methodologies that could be applied to these transactions and, if applied, could result in different chargeable amounts. Taxing authorities in the various foreign locations in which we operate could apply one of the alternative transfer pricing methodologies which could result in an increase to our income tax liabilities with respect to tax returns that remain subject to examination.

We file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction, various state jurisdictions and various foreign jurisdictions. Tax years that remain subject to examination by these jurisdictions include years 2003 to 2010. We are currently under audit in several of these jurisdictions. We do not anticipate that any adjustments resulting from the tax audits will have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, financial position and cash flows. During 2011, an audit by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for the year 2008 was completed without any adjustment proposed by the auditors.

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The Brazilian tax authorities have audited our income tax returns for the years 2000, 2004 and 2005 and are currently auditing our income tax return for the year 2007. The tax auditors have issued an assessment for tax year 2000 of approximately \$1.5 million, including interest and penalty. We have appealed the tax assessment and are awaiting the outcome of the appeal. In December 2009, we received an assessment of approximately \$26.0 million for the years 2004 and 2005, including interest and penalty. We contested the tax assessment in January 2010 and are awaiting the outcome of the appeal. As required by GAAP, only the portion of the tax benefit that has a greater than 50% likelihood of being realized upon settlement is to be recognized. Consequently, we have accrued approximately \$13.8 million of expense attributable to the portion of the tax assessment we determined to be an uncertain tax position, of which approximately \$3.6 million is interest related and approximately \$3.5 million is penalty related. We do not anticipate that any adjustments resulting from the tax audit of any of these years will have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, financial position and cash flows. During 2011, unrecognized tax benefits were reduced by approximately \$6.8 million due to the lapse in the applicable statute of limitations for the 2006 tax year, of which \$1.1 million was interest and \$2.0 million was penalty.

The Mexican tax authorities have audited our income tax returns for the years 2004 and 2006. The tax auditors have issued assessments for tax year 2004 of approximately \$22.9 million, including interest and penalties. We have appealed the tax assessments and are awaiting the outcome of the appeals. In January 2012, we received tax assessments for the tax year 2006 of approximately \$24.4 million including interest and penalties. We do not anticipate that any adjustments resulting from the tax audits of any of these years will have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

As of December 31, 2011, we had recorded a deferred tax asset of \$27.2 million for the benefit of NOL carryforwards related to our international operations. Approximately \$8.2 million of this deferred tax asset relates to NOL carryforwards that have an indefinite life. The remaining \$19.0 million relates to NOL carryforwards of our Mexican entities. Unless utilized, the tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards will expire between 2014 and 2021 as follows:

Year Expiring	Tax Benefit of NOL Carryforwards (In millions)
2014	\$ 1.2
2015	4.5
2016	7.2
2017	5.8
2018	—
2019	—
2020	0.2
2021	0.1
Total	\$ 19.0

As of December 31, 2011, a valuation allowance of \$26.4 million has been recorded for our NOLs as only \$0.8 million of the deferred tax asset is more likely than not to be realized.

14. Employee Benefit Plans*Defined Contribution Plans*

We maintain defined contribution retirement plans for our U.S., United Kingdom, or U.K., and third-country national, or TCN, employees. The plan for our U.S. employees, or the 401k Plan, is designed to qualify under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code. Under the 401k Plan, each participant may elect to defer taxation on a portion of his or her eligible earnings, as defined by the 401k Plan, by directing his or her employer to withhold a percentage of such earnings. A participating employee may also elect to make after-tax contributions to the 401k Plan. During the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we made a profit-share contribution of 4%, 4% and 5%, respectively, of participants' defined compensation and in each year matched up to 6% of each employee's compensation contributed to the 401k Plan. Participants are fully vested in the employer match immediately upon enrollment in the 401k Plan and subject to a three year cliff vesting period for the profit sharing contribution. For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, our provision for contributions was \$21.5 million, \$23.8 million and \$26.0 million, respectively.

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The defined contribution retirement plan for our U.K. employees provides that we make annual contributions in an amount equal to the employee's contributions, generally up to a maximum of 5.25% of the employee's defined compensation per year for employees working in the U.K. sector of the North Sea and up to a maximum of 9% of the employee's defined compensation per year for U.K. nationals working in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. Our provision for contributions was \$1.2 million, \$1.2 million and \$1.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

The defined contribution retirement plan for our TCN employees, or International Savings Plan, is similar to the 401k Plan. During the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we contributed 4%, 4% and 5%, respectively, of participants' defined compensation and in each year matched up to 6% of each employee's compensation contributed to the International Savings Plan. Our provision for contributions was \$2.9 million, \$2.8 million and \$2.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Deferred Compensation and Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan

Our Amended and Restated Diamond Offshore Management Company Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, or Supplemental Plan, provides benefits to a select group of our management or other highly compensated employees to compensate such employees for any portion of our base salary contribution and/or matching contribution under the 401k Plan that could not be contributed to that plan because of limitations within the Code. Our provision for contributions to the Supplemental Plan for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was approximately \$245,000, \$238,000 and \$241,000, respectively.

15. Segments and Geographic Area Analysis

Although we provide contract drilling services with different types of offshore drilling rigs and also provide such services in many geographic locations, we have aggregated these operations into one reportable segment based on the similarity of economic characteristics among all divisions and locations, including the nature of services provided and the type of customers of such services.

Revenues from contract drilling services by equipment-type are listed below:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Floaters:			
Ultra-Deepwater	\$ 841,565	\$ 718,426	\$ 746,050
Deepwater	733,037	564,315	525,877
Mid-Water	1,482,032	1,678,793	1,807,428
Total Floaters	3,056,634	2,961,534	3,079,355
Jack-ups	197,534	267,983	457,224
Other	145	219	—
Total contract drilling revenues	3,254,313	3,229,736	3,536,579
Revenues related to reimbursable expenses	68,106	93,238	94,705
Total revenues	\$ 3,322,419	\$ 3,322,974	\$ 3,631,284

[Table of Contents](#)*Geographic Areas*

Our drilling rigs are highly mobile and may be moved to other markets throughout the world in response to market conditions or customer needs. At December 31, 2011, our drilling rigs were located offshore 13 countries in addition to the United States. Revenues by geographic area are presented by attributing revenues to the individual country or areas where the services were performed.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
United States	\$ 323,381	\$ 635,545	\$1,232,940
International:			
South America	1,736,798	1,308,641	716,448
Australia/Asia	451,364	641,372	717,658
Europe/Africa/Mediterranean	749,128	601,122	641,180
Mexico	61,748	136,294	323,058
	2,999,038	2,687,429	2,398,344
Total revenues	\$3,322,419	\$3,322,974	\$3,631,284

An individual international country may, from time to time, comprise a material percentage of our total contract drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers. For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, individual countries that comprised 5% or more of our total contract drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers are listed below.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Brazil	49.4%	36.8%	18.2%
Angola	9.6%	6.1%	1.8%
Australia	6.7%	10.0%	10.8%
Indonesia	5.0%	1.3%	1.2%
United Kingdom	4.6%	5.6%	6.7%
Mexico	1.9%	4.1%	8.9%

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A substantial portion of our assets is mobile, and therefore asset locations at the end of the period are not necessarily indicative of the geographic distribution of the earnings generated by such assets during the periods and may vary from period to period due to the relocation of rigs. In circumstances where our drilling rigs were in transit at the end of a calendar year, they have been presented in the tables below within the geographic area in which they are expected to operate.

The following table presents our long-lived tangible assets by geographic location as of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Drilling and other property and equipment, net:			
United States	\$ 283,049	\$ 638,529	\$ 2,176,993
International:			
South America	1,979,303	2,290,412	874,644
Australia/Asia/Middle East ⁽¹⁾	1,212,461	417,121	1,015,273
Europe/Africa/Mediterranean	852,300	897,998	262,037
Mexico	340,356	39,732	103,105
	4,384,420	3,645,263	2,255,059
Total	\$4,667,469	\$ 4,283,792	\$ 4,432,052

- ⁽¹⁾ Long-lived tangible assets in the Australia/Asia/Middle East region as of December 31, 2011 include \$490.2 million in construction work-in-progress for three drillships under construction in South Korea.

The following table presents the countries in which material concentrations of our long-lived tangible assets were located as of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009:

	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Brazil	41.9%	52.7%	19.7%
South Korea ⁽¹⁾	10.5%	—	—
Angola	8.0%	1.7%	1.9%
Mexico	7.3%	0.9%	2.3%
Vietnam	6.6%	0.6%	0.6%
United States	6.1%	14.9%	49.1%
Egypt	5.5%	6.3%	0.9%
Republic of Congo	—	9.3%	—
Singapore	—	1.9%	11.5%

- ⁽¹⁾ Assets in South Korea, as of December 31, 2011, include \$490.2 million in construction work-in-progress for our three drillships under construction.

As of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, no other countries had more than a 5% concentration of our long-lived tangible assets.

[Table of Contents](#)*Major Customers*

Our customer base includes major and independent oil and gas companies and government-owned oil companies. Revenues from our major customers for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 that contributed more than 10% of our total revenues are as follows:

Customer	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Petróleo Brasileiro S.A.	35.0%	23.7%	15.0%
OGX Petróleo e Gás Ltda.	14.1%	14.1%	1.4%

16. Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data

Unaudited summarized financial data by quarter for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 is shown below.

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
(In thousands, except per share data)				
2011				
Revenues	\$806,389	\$889,496	\$878,177	\$748,357
Operating income ^(a)	319,265	367,596	350,277	218,276
Income before income tax expense	296,849	344,026	334,849	203,547
Net income ^(b)	250,612	266,586	256,854	188,490
Net income per share:				
Basic	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.36
Diluted	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.36
2010				
Revenues	\$859,681	\$822,603	\$799,724	\$840,966
Operating income ^(c)	426,677	345,807	317,180	335,710
Income before income tax expense	406,012	320,926	298,566	310,512
Net income ^(d)	290,853	224,393	198,524	241,687
Net income per share:				
Basic	\$ 2.09	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.43	\$ 1.74
Diluted	\$ 2.09	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.43	\$ 1.74

- (a) Results for the fourth quarter of 2011 include a \$1.3 million recovery of bad debt reserves recorded in previous years.
- (b) Results for the fourth quarter of 2011 reflect a reduction in income tax expense, primarily as a result of a year-end true up related to foreign taxes.
- (c) Results for the fourth quarter of 2010 include a \$3.9 million recovery of bad debt reserves recorded in previous years.
- (d) Results for the fourth quarter of 2010 reflect a reduction in income tax expense, partially attributable to recording the full year tax effect of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 that was passed in mid-December 2010.

[Table of Contents](#)**Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure.**

Not applicable.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures*Disclosure Controls and Procedures*

We maintain a system of disclosure controls and procedures which are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the federal securities laws, including this report, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported on a timely basis. These disclosure controls and procedures include controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us under the federal securities laws is accumulated and communicated to our management on a timely basis to allow decisions regarding required disclosure.

Our Chief Executive Officer, or CEO, and Chief Financial Officer, or CFO, participated in an evaluation by our management of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) as of December 31, 2011. Based on their participation in that evaluation, our CEO and CFO concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of December 31, 2011.

*Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. Our internal control system was designed to provide reasonable assurance to our management and Board of Directors regarding the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements.

There are inherent limitations to the effectiveness of any control system, however well designed, including the possibility of human error and the possible circumvention or overriding of controls. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Management must make judgments with respect to the relative cost and expected benefits of any specific control measure. The design of a control system also is based in part upon assumptions and judgments made by management about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that a control will be effective under all potential future conditions. As a result, even an effective system of internal controls can provide no more than reasonable assurance with respect to the fair presentation of financial statements and the processes under which they were prepared.

Our management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011. In making this assessment, our management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework*. Based on management's assessment our management believes that, as of December 31, 2011, our internal control over financial reporting was effective based on those criteria to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Deloitte & Touche LLP, the registered public accounting firm that audited our financial statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, has issued an attestation report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. The attestation report of Deloitte & Touche LLP is included at the beginning of Item 8 of this Form 10-K.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the foregoing evaluation that occurred during our fourth fiscal quarter of 2011 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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Not applicable.

PART III

Reference is made to the information responsive to Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of this Part III contained in our definitive proxy statement for our 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance.**Item 11. Executive Compensation.****Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters.****Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence.****Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services.****PART IV****Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules.**

(a) Index to Financial Statements, Financial Statement Schedules and Exhibits

(1) Financial Statements

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(2) Exhibit Index

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See the Exhibit Index for a list of those exhibits filed herewith, which Exhibit Index also includes and identifies management contracts or compensatory plans or arrangements required to be filed as exhibits to this Form 10-K by Item 601 of Regulation S-K.

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Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, on February 23, 2012.

DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING, INC.

By: /s/ GARY T. KRENEK
 Gary T. Krenak
 Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ LAWRENCE R. DICKERSON*</u> Lawrence R. Dickerson	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	February 23, 2012
<u>/s/ GARY T. KRENEK*</u> Gary T. Krenak	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	February 23, 2012
<u>/s/ BETH G. GORDON*</u> Beth G. Gordon	Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)	February 23, 2012
<u>/s/ JAMES S. TISCH*</u> James S. Tisch	Chairman of the Board	February 23, 2012
<u>/s/ JOHN R. BOLTON*</u> John R. Bolton	Director	February 23, 2012
<u>/s/ CHARLES L. FABRIKANT*</u> Charles L. Fabrikant	Director	February 23, 2012
<u>/s/ PAUL G. GAFFNEY II*</u> Paul G. Gaffney II	Director	February 23, 2012
<u>/s/ EDWARD GREBOW*</u> Edward Grebow	Director	February 23, 2012
<u>/s/ HERBERT C. HOFMANN*</u> Herbert C. Hofmann	Director	February 23, 2012
<u>/s/ CLIFFORD M. SOBEL*</u> Clifford M. Sobel	Director	February 23, 2012
<u>/s/ ANDREW H. TISCH*</u> Andrew H. Tisch	Director	February 23, 2012
<u>/s/ RAYMOND S. TROUBH*</u> Raymond S. Troubh	Director	February 23, 2012

*By: /s/ WILLIAM C. LONG
 William C. Long
 Attorney-in-fact

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<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2003) (SEC File No. 1-13926).
3.2	Amended and Restated By-laws (as amended through March 15, 2011) of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 16, 2011).
4.1	Indenture, dated as of February 4, 1997, between Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon (formerly known as The Bank of New York) (as successor to The Chase Manhattan Bank), as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001) (SEC File No. 1-13926).
4.2	Fourth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of August 27, 2004, between Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon (formerly known as The Bank of New York) (as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank), as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed September 1, 2004) (SEC File No. 1-13926).
4.3	Fifth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of June 14, 2005, between Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon (formerly known as The Bank of New York) (as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association), as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed June 16, 2005) (SEC File No. 1-13926).
4.4	Sixth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 4, 2009, between Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon, as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed May 4, 2009).
4.5	Seventh Supplemental Indenture, dated as of October 8, 2009, between Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon, as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed October 8, 2009).
10.1	Registration Rights Agreement (the "Registration Rights Agreement") dated October 16, 1995 between Loews and Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001) (SEC File No. 1-13926).
10.2	Amendment to the Registration Rights Agreement, dated September 16, 1997, between Loews and Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997) (SEC File No. 1-13926).
10.3	Services Agreement, dated October 16, 1995, between Loews and Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001) (SEC File No. 1-13926).
10.4+	Amended and Restated Diamond Offshore Management Company Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan effective as of January 1, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006).
10.5+	Diamond Offshore Management Bonus Program, as amended and restated, and dated as of December 31, 1997 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997) (SEC File No. 1-13926).
10.6+	Second Amended and Restated Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. 2000 Stock Option Plan, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007).
10.7+	Form of Stock Option Certificate for grants to executive officers, other employees and consultants pursuant to the Second Amended and Restated Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. 2000 Stock Option Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed October 1, 2004) (SEC File No. 1-13926).

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10.8+	Form of Stock Option Certificate for grants to non-employee directors pursuant to the Second Amended and Restated Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. 2000 Stock Option Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed October 1, 2004) (SEC File No. 1-13926).
10.9+	Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. Incentive Compensation Plan for Executive Officers (amended and restated as of December 18, 2009) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009).
10.10+	Form of Award Certificate for stock appreciation right grants to the Company's executive officers, other employees and consultants pursuant to the Second Amended and Restated Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. 2000 Stock Option Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed April 28, 2006).
10.11+	Form of Award Certificate for stock appreciation right grants to non-employee directors pursuant to the Second Amended and Restated Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. 2000 Stock Option Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2007).
10.12+	Employment Agreement between Diamond Offshore Management Company and Lawrence R. Dickerson dated as of December 15, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 21, 2006).
10.13+	Employment Agreement between Diamond Offshore Management Company and Gary T. Krenek dated as of December 15, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 21, 2006).
10.14+	Employment Agreement between Diamond Offshore Management Company and John M. Vecchio dated as of December 15, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006).
10.15+	Employment Agreement between Diamond Offshore Management Company and William C. Long dated as of December 15, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006).
10.16+	Employment Agreement between Diamond Offshore Management Company and Lyndol L. Dew dated as of December 15, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006).
10.17+	Employment Agreement between Diamond Offshore Management Company and Beth G. Gordon dated as of January 3, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006).
10.18+	Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated June 16, 2008, between Diamond Offshore Management Company and Lawrence R. Dickerson (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2008).
12.1*	Statement re Computation of Ratios.
21.1*	List of Subsidiaries of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.
23.1*	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP.
24.1*	Powers of Attorney.
31.1*	Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of the Chief Executive Officer.
31.2*	Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of the Chief Financial Officer.

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32.1*	Section 1350 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer.
101.INS**	XBRL Instance Document.
101.SCH**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
101.CAL**	XBRL Taxonomy Calculation Linkbase Document.
101.LAB**	XBRL Taxonomy Label Linkbase Document.
101.PRE**	XBRL Presentation Linkbase Document.
101.DEF**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition.
	* Filed or furnished herewith.
	** The documents formatted in XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language) and attached as Exhibit 101 to this report are deemed not filed or part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act, are deemed not filed for purposes of section 18 of the Exchange Act, and otherwise, not subject to liability under these sections.
	+ Management contracts or compensatory plans or arrangements.

Exhibit 12.1

DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING, INC.
Statement re Computation of Ratios
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges:

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Computation of Earnings:					
Pretax income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 1,179,271	\$ 1,336,016	\$ 1,868,431	\$ 1,847,046	\$ 1,243,372
Less Interest capitalized during the period and actual preferred dividend requirements of majority-owned subsidiaries and 50%-owned persons included in fixed charges but not deducted from pretax income from above	(11,212)	—	—	(16,870)	(19,320)
Add: Previously capitalized interest amortized during the period	3,400	3,400	3,400	2,428	1,928
Total earnings (losses), before fixed charge addition	1,171,459	1,339,416	1,871,831	1,832,604	1,225,980
Computation of Fixed Charges:					
Interest, including interest capitalized	87,425	93,334	51,585	28,842	40,648
Total fixed charges	87,425	93,334	51,585	28,842	40,648
Total Earnings (Losses) and Fixed Charges	\$ 1,258,884	\$ 1,432,750	\$ 1,923,416	\$ 1,861,446	\$ 1,266,628
Ratio of Earnings (Losses) to Fixed Charges ⁽¹⁾	14.40	15.35	37.29	64.54	31.16

(1) For purposes of this ratio, fixed charges include (i) interest, whether expensed or capitalized, (ii) amortization of debt issuance costs, whether expensed or capitalized, and (iii) a portion of rent expense, which we believe represents the interest factor attributable to rent.

Exhibit 21.1**SUBSIDIARIES**

<i>Subsidiary</i>	<i>Jurisdiction of Organization</i>
Diamond Offshore Development Company	Delaware
Diamond Offshore Finance Company	Delaware
Diamond Offshore Management Company	Delaware
Diamond Offshore Company	Delaware
Diamond Offshore General Company	Delaware
Diamond Offshore Services Company	Delaware
Diamond Offshore International Limited	Cayman Islands
Diamond International Leasing Limited	Cayman Islands
Diamond Offshore International, L.L.C.	Delaware
Diamond Offshore (Bermuda) Limited	Bermuda
Diamond Offshore Drilling (Bermuda) Limited	Bermuda
Diamond Offshore Drilling (Bermuda) Private Trust Company	Bermuda
Diamond Offshore (Brazil) L.L.C.	Delaware
Brasdril-Sociedade de Perfuracoes Ltda.	Brazil
Diamond Offshore Drilling (Overseas) L.L.C.	Delaware
Mexdrill, L.L.C.	Delaware
Mexdrill Offshore, S. de R.L. de C.V.	Mexico
Offshore Drilling Services of Mexico, S. de R.L. de C.V.	Mexico
Diamond Offshore Drilling Company N.V.	Netherlands Antilles
Diamond Offshore Netherlands B.V.	The Netherlands
Offshore Drilling Services (Netherlands) B.V.	The Netherlands
Diamond Offshore Drilling Limited	Cayman Islands
Diamond Hungary Leasing L.L.C.	Hungary
Diamond International Assets Limited	Cayman Islands
Diamond East Asia Limited	Cayman Islands
Diamond Offshore Limited	England
Diamond Offshore (Australia) L.L.C.	Delaware
Diamond Offshore Shield, L.L.C.	Delaware
Diamond Offshore Heritage, L.L.C.	Delaware
Diamond Offshore Enterprises Limited	England
Diamond Offshore Drilling (UK) Ltd.	England
Diamond Offshore Holding, L.L.C.	Delaware
Diamond Offshore Drilling Sdn. Bhd.	Malaysia
Diamond Offshore Leasing Ltd.	Malaysia
Diamond Offshore Services Limited	Bermuda
Diamond Offshore (USA) L.L.C.	Delaware
Diamond Offshore (Trinidad) L.L.C.	Delaware
Diamond Rig Investments Limited	England
Z North Sea, Ltd.	Delaware

EXHIBIT 23.1

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement No. 333-22745 on Form S-8, Registration Statement No. 333-23547 on Form S-4, Registration Statement No. 333-42930 on Form S-8, Registration Statement No. 333-117512 on Form S-8 and Registration Statement No. 333-157865 on Form S-3 of our reports dated February 22, 2012, relating to the consolidated financial statements of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. ("the Company") and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, appearing in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2011.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP
Houston, Texas
February 23, 2012

EXHIBIT 24.1

POWER OF ATTORNEY

James S. Tisch hereby designates and appoints William C. Long and Gary T. Krenek and each of them (with full power to each of them to act alone) as his attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and re-substitution (the "Attorneys-in-Fact"), for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute the Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") to be filed by Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any amendment(s) to the Annual Report, which amendment(s) may make such changes in the Annual Report as either Attorney-in-Fact deems appropriate, and to file the Annual Report and each such amendment to the Annual Report together with all exhibits thereto and any and all documents in connection therewith.

Signature

Title

Date

/s/ James S. Tisch
James S. Tisch

Chairman of the Board

February 15, 2012

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Lawrence R. Dickerson hereby designates and appoints William C. Long and Gary T. Krenk and each of them (with full power to each of them to act alone) as his attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and re-substitution (the "Attorneys-in-Fact"), for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute the Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") to be filed by Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any amendment(s) to the Annual Report, which amendment(s) may make such changes in the Annual Report as either Attorney-in-Fact deems appropriate, and to file the Annual Report and each such amendment to the Annual Report together with all exhibits thereto and any and all documents in connection therewith.

Signature

Title

Date

/s/ Lawrence R. Dickerson
Lawrence R. Dickerson

Director, President and
Chief Executive Officer

February 15, 2012

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Gary T. Krenek hereby designates and appoints William C. Long as his attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and re-substitution (the "Attorney-in-Fact"), for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute the Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") to be filed by Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any amendment(s) to the Annual Report, which amendment(s) may make such changes in the Annual Report as the Attorney-in-Fact deems appropriate, and to file the Annual Report and each such amendment to the Annual Report together with all exhibits thereto and any and all documents in connection therewith.

Signature

/s/ Gary T. Krenek
Gary T. Krenek

Title

Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Date

February 15, 2012

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Beth G. Gordon hereby designates and appoints William C. Long and Gary T. Krenek and each of them (with full power to each of them to act alone) as her attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and re-substitution (the "Attorneys-in-Fact"), for her and in her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute the Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") to be filed by Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any amendment(s) to the Annual Report, which amendment(s) may make such changes in the Annual Report as either Attorney-in-Fact deems appropriate, and to file the Annual Report and each such amendment to the Annual Report together with all exhibits thereto and any and all documents in connection therewith.

Signature

Title

Date

/s/ Beth G. Gordon
Beth G. Gordon

Controller

February 15, 2012

POWER OF ATTORNEY

John R. Bolton hereby designates and appoints William C. Long and Gary T. Krenk and each of them (with full power to each of them to act alone) as his attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and re-substitution (the "Attorneys-in-Fact"), for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute the Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") to be filed by Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any amendment(s) to the Annual Report, which amendment(s) may make such changes in the Annual Report as either Attorney-in-Fact deems appropriate, and to file the Annual Report and each such amendment to the Annual Report together with all exhibits thereto and any and all documents in connection therewith.

Signature

Title

Date

/s/ John R. Bolton
John R. Bolton

Director

February 15, 2012

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Charles L. Fabrikant hereby designates and appoints William C. Long and Gary T. Krenek and each of them (with full power to each of them to act alone) as his attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and re-substitution (the "Attorneys-in-Fact"), for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute the Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") to be filed by Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any amendment(s) to the Annual Report, which amendment(s) may make such changes in the Annual Report as either Attorney-in-Fact deems appropriate, and to file the Annual Report and each such amendment to the Annual Report together with all exhibits thereto and any and all documents in connection therewith.

Signature

Title

Date

/s/ Charles L. Fabrikant
Charles L. Fabrikant

Director

February 15, 2012

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Paul G. Gaffney II hereby designates and appoints William C. Long and Gary T. Krenek and each of them (with full power to each of them to act alone) as his attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and re-substitution (the "Attorneys-in-Fact"), for his and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute the Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") to be filed by Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any amendment(s) to the Annual Report, which amendment(s) may make such changes in the Annual Report as either Attorney-in-Fact deems appropriate, and to file the Annual Report and each such amendment to the Annual Report together with all exhibits thereto and any and all documents in connection therewith.

Signature

Title

Date

/s/ Paul G. Gaffney II
Paul G. Gaffney II

Director

February 15, 2012

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Edward Grebow hereby designates and appoints William C. Long and Gary T. Krenek and each of them (with full power to each of them to act alone) as his attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and re-substitution (the "Attorneys-in-Fact"), for his and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute the Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") to be filed by Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any amendment(s) to the Annual Report, which amendment(s) may make such changes in the Annual Report as either Attorney-in-Fact deems appropriate, and to file the Annual Report and each such amendment to the Annual Report together with all exhibits thereto and any and all documents in connection therewith.

Signature

Title

Date

/s/ Edward Grebow
Edward Grebow

Director

February 15, 2012

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Herbert C. Hofmann hereby designates and appoints William C. Long and Gary T. Krenak and each of them (with full power to each of them to act alone) as his attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and re-substitution (the "Attorneys-in-Fact"), for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute the Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") to be filed by Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any amendment(s) to the Annual Report, which amendment(s) may make such changes in the Annual Report as either Attorney-in-Fact deems appropriate, and to file the Annual Report and each such amendment to the Annual Report together with all exhibits thereto and any and all documents in connection therewith.

Signature

Title

Date

/s/ Herbert C. Hofmann
Herbert C. Hofmann

Director

February 15, 2012

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Clifford M. Sobel hereby designates and appoints William C. Long and Gary T. Krenek and each of them (with full power to each of them to act alone) as his attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and re-substitution (the "Attorneys-in-Fact"), for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute the Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") to be filed by Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any amendment(s) to the Annual Report, which amendment(s) may make such changes in the Annual Report as either Attorney-in-Fact deems appropriate, and to file the Annual Report and each such amendment to the Annual Report together with all exhibits thereto and any and all documents in connection therewith.

Signature

Title

Date

/s/ Clifford M. Sobel
Clifford M. Sobel

Director

February 15, 2012

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Andrew H. Tisch hereby designates and appoints William C. Long and Gary T. Krenek and each of them (with full power to each of them to act alone) as his attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and re-substitution (the "Attorneys-in-Fact"), for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute the Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") to be filed by Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any amendment(s) to the Annual Report, which amendment(s) may make such changes in the Annual Report as either Attorney-in-Fact deems appropriate, and to file the Annual Report and each such amendment to the Annual Report together with all exhibits thereto and any and all documents in connection therewith.

Signature

/s/ Andrew H. Tisch
Andrew H. Tisch

Title

Director

Date

February 15, 2012

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Raymond S. Troubh hereby designates and appoints William C. Long and Gary T. Krenek and each of them (with full power to each of them to act alone) as his attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and re-substitution (the "Attorneys-in-Fact"), for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute the Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") to be filed by Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any amendment(s) to the Annual Report, which amendment(s) may make such changes in the Annual Report as either Attorney-in-Fact deems appropriate, and to file the Annual Report and each such amendment to the Annual Report together with all exhibits thereto and any and all documents in connection therewith.

Signature

Title

Date

/s/ Raymond S. Troubh
Raymond S. Troubh

Director

February 15, 2012

Exhibit 31.1

I, Lawrence R. Dickerson, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011 of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 23, 2012

/s/ Lawrence R. Dickerson

Lawrence R. Dickerson
Chief Executive Officer

Exhibit 31.2

I, Gary T. Krenek, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011 of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 23, 2012

/s/ Gary T. Krenek

Gary T. Krenek
Chief Financial Officer

Exhibit 32.1

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED BY SECTION 906
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

Each of the undersigned hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, in his capacity as an officer of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. (the "Company"), that, to his knowledge:

(1) the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, as filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and

(2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: February 23, 2012

/s/ Lawrence R. Dickerson

Lawrence R. Dickerson,
Chief Executive Officer of the Company

/s/ Gary T. Krenek

Gary T. Krenek,
Chief Financial Officer of the Company

Cover Page - Document and Entity Information

Document and Entity Information (USD \$)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Feb. 16, 2012	Jun. 30, 2011
Document and Entity Information [Abstract]	do_DocumentAndEntityInformationAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Entity Registrant Name	dei_EntityRegistrantName	dei	xbri:normalizedStringItemType	na	duration	DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING INC		
Entity Central Index Key	dei_EntityCentralIndexKey	dei	dei:centralIndexKeyItemType	na	duration	0000949039		
Document Type	dei_DocumentType	dei	dei:submissionTypeItemType	na	duration	10-K		
Document Period End Date	dei_DocumentPeriodEndDate	dei	xbri:dateItemType	na	duration	Dec. 31, 2011		
Amendment Flag	dei_AmendmentFlag	dei	xbri:booleanItemType	na	duration	false		
Document Fiscal Year Focus	dei_DocumentFiscalYearFocus	dei	xbri:gYearItemType	na	duration	2011		
Document Fiscal Period Focus	dei_DocumentFiscalPeriodFocus	dei	dei:fiscalPeriodItemType	na	duration	FY		
Current Fiscal Year End Date	dei_CurrentFiscalYearEndDate	dei	xbri:gMonthDayItemType	na	duration	--12-31		
Entity Well-known Seasoned Issuer	dei_EntityWellKnownSeasonedIssuer	dei	dei:yesNoItemType	na	duration	Yes		
Entity Voluntary Filers	dei_EntityVoluntaryFilers	dei	dei:yesNoItemType	na	duration	No		
Entity Current Reporting Status	dei_EntityCurrentReportingStatus	dei	dei:yesNoItemType	na	duration	Yes		
Entity Filer Category	dei_EntityFilerCategory	dei	dei:filerCategoryItemType	na	duration	Large Accelerated Filer		
Entity Public Float	dei_EntityPublicFloat	dei	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant			\$ 4,852,827,522
Entity Common Stock, Shares Outstanding	dei_EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding	dei	xbri:sharesItemType	na	instant		139,027,209	

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Financial Statements - Consolidated Balance Sheets

Consolidated Balance Sheets (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		
Current assets:	us-gaap_AssetsCurrentAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Cash and cash equivalents	us-gaap_CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 333,765	\$ 464,393
Marketable securities	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	902,414	612,346
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for bad debts	us-gaap_AccountsAndOtherReceivablesNetCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	563,934	609,606
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	us-gaap_PrepaidExpenseAndOtherAssetsCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	192,570	177,153
Total current assets	us-gaap_AssetsCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	1,992,683	1,863,498
Drilling and other property and equipment, net of accumulated depredation	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentNet	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	4,667,469	4,283,792
Long-term receivable	us-gaap_AccountsReceivableGrossNoncurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	0	35,361
Other assets	us-gaap_OtherAssetsNoncurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	304,005	544,333
Total assets	us-gaap_Assets	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	6,964,157	6,726,984
Current liabilities:	us-gaap_LiabilitiesCurrentAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Accounts payable	us-gaap_AccountsPayableCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	64,147	99,236
Accrued liabilities	us-gaap_OtherLiabilitiesCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	336,400	469,190
Taxes payable	us-gaap_TaxesPayableCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	26,744	57,862
Total current liabilities	us-gaap_LiabilitiesCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	427,291	626,288
Long-term debt	us-gaap_LongTermDebtNoncurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	1,495,823	1,495,593
Deferred tax liability	us-gaap_DeferredTaxLiabilitiesNoncurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	536,815	542,258
Other liabilities	us-gaap_OtherLiabilitiesNoncurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	171,165	201,133
Total liabilities	us-gaap_Liabilities	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	2,631,094	2,865,272
Commitments and contingencies (Note 11)	us-gaap_CommitmentsAndContingencies	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant		
Stockholders' equity:	us-gaap_StockholdersEquityAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Preferred stock (par value \$0.01, 25,000,000 shares authorized, none issued and outstanding)	us-gaap_PREFERREDStockValue	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant		
Common stock (par value \$0.01, 500,000,000 shares authorized; 143,944,009 shares issued and 139,027,209 shares outstanding at December 31, 2011; 143,943,624 shares issued and 139,026,824 shares outstanding at December 31, 2010)	us-gaap_CommonStockValue	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	1,439	1,439
Additional paid-in capital	us-gaap_AdditionalPaidInCapital	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	1,978,369	1,972,550
Retained earnings	us-gaap_RetainedEarningsAccumulatedDeficit	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	2,472,310	1,998,995
Accumulated other comprehensive gain (loss)	us-gaap_AccumulatedOtherComprehensiveIncomeLossNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(4,642)	3,141
Treasury stock, at cost (4,916,800 shares at December 31, 2011 and 2010)	us-gaap_TreasuryStockValue	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	(114,413)	(114,413)
Total stockholders' equity	us-gaap_StockholdersEquity	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	4,333,063	3,861,712
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	us-gaap_LiabilitiesAndStockholdersEquity	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 6,964,157	\$ 6,726,984

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Financial Statements - Consolidated Balance Sheets (Parenthetical)

Consolidated Balance Sheets (Parenthetical) (USD \$)	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		
Consolidated Balance Sheets [Abstract]	us-gaap_StatementOfFinancialPositionAbstract	us- gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Preferred stock, par value	us-gaap_PREFERREDStockParOrStatedValuePerShare	us- gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	instant	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.01
Preferred stock, shares authorized	us-gaap_PREFERREDStockSharesAuthorized	us- gaap	xbrli:sharesItemType	na	instant	25,000,000	25,000,000
Preferred stock, shares issued	us-gaap_PREFERREDStockSharesIssued	us- gaap	xbrli:sharesItemType	na	instant		
Preferred stock, shares outstanding	us-gaap_PREFERREDStockSharesOutstanding	us- gaap	xbrli:sharesItemType	na	instant		
Common stock, par value	us-gaap_CommonStockParOrStatedValuePerShare	us- gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	instant	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.01
Common stock, shares authorized	us-gaap_CommonStockSharesAuthorized	us- gaap	xbrli:sharesItemType	na	instant	500,000,000	500,000,000
Common stock, shares issued	us-gaap_CommonStockSharesIssued	us- gaap	xbrli:sharesItemType	na	instant	143,944,009	143,943,624
Common stock, shares outstanding	us-gaap_CommonStockSharesOutstanding	us- gaap	xbrli:sharesItemType	na	instant	139,027,209	139,026,824
Treasury stock, shares	us-gaap_TreasuryStockShares	us- gaap	xbrli:sharesItemType	na	instant	4,916,800	4,916,800

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Financial Statements - Consolidated Statements of Operations

Consolidated Statements of Operations (USD \$) In Thousands, except Per Share data	XBRL Details		12 Months Ended					
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Revenues:	us-gaap_RevenuesAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Contract drilling	us-gaap_RevenueOilAndGasServices	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	\$ 3,254,313	\$ 3,229,736	\$ 3,536,579
Revenues related to reimbursable expenses	us-gaap_ReimbursementRevenue	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	68,106	93,238	94,705
Total revenues	us-gaap_Revenues	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	3,322,419	3,322,974	3,631,284
Operating expenses:	us-gaap_OperatingExpensesAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Contract drilling, excluding depreciation	us-gaap_ContractRevenueCost	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	1,548,502	1,391,086	1,223,771
Reimbursable expenses	us-gaap_CostOfReimbursableExpense	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	66,052	91,240	93,097
Depreciation	us-gaap_CostOfServicesDepreciation	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	398,612	393,177	346,446
General and administrative	us-gaap_GeneralAndAdministrativeExpense	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	65,310	66,600	62,913
Bad debt (recovery) expense	us-gaap_ProvisionForDoubtfulAccounts	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(6,713)	(9,789)	9,746
Gain on disposition of assets	us-gaap_GainLossOnDispositionOfAssets	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(4,758)	(34,714)	(7,902)
Total operating expenses	us-gaap_CostsAndExpenses	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	2,067,005	1,897,600	1,728,071
Operating income	us-gaap_OperatingIncomeLoss	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	1,255,414	1,425,374	1,903,213
Other income (expense):	us-gaap_NonoperatingIncomeExpenseAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Interest income	us-gaap_InvestmentIncomeInterest	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	6,688	2,909	4,497
Interest expense	do_InterestExpenseNonOperating	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(73,137)	(90,698)	(49,610)
Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyTransactionGainLossBeforeTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(8,588)	1,369	11,483
Other, net	us-gaap_OtherNonoperatingIncomeExpense	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(1,086)	(2,938)	(1,152)
Income before income tax expense	us-gaap_IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeIncomeTaxesMinorityInterestAndIncomeLossFromEquityMethodInvestments	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	1,179,271	1,336,016	1,868,431
Income tax expense	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(216,729)	(380,559)	(492,212)
Net income	us-gaap_NetIncomeLoss	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	\$ 962,542	\$ 955,457	\$ 1,376,219
Earnings per share:	us-gaap_EarningsPerShareAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Basic	us-gaap_EarningsPerShareBasic	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	duration	\$ 6.92	\$ 6.87	\$ 9.90
Diluted	us-gaap_EarningsPerShareDiluted	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	duration	\$ 6.92	\$ 6.87	\$ 9.89
Weighted-average shares outstanding:	us-gaap_WeightedAverageNumberOfSharesOutstandingAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Shares of common stock	us-gaap_WeightedAverageNumberOfSharesOutstandingBasic	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	duration	139,027	139,026	139,007
Dilutive potential shares of common stock	us-gaap_WeightedAverageNumberOfDilutedSharesOutstandingAdjustment	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	duration	11	44	90
Total weighted-average shares outstanding	us-gaap_WeightedAverageNumberOfDilutedSharesOutstanding	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	duration	139,038	139,070	139,097
Cash dividends declared per share of common stock	us-gaap_CommonStockDividendsPerShareDeclared	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	duration	\$ 3.50	\$ 5.25	\$ 8.00

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Financial Statements - Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity (USD \$) In Thousands, except Share data	XBRL Details					Total	Common Stock	Additional Paid-In Capital	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Gains (Losses)	Treasury Stock
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type						
Beginning balance at Dec. 31, 2008	us-gaap_StockholdersEquity	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	instant	\$ 3,361,485	\$ 1,439	\$ 1,957,041	\$ 1,516,908	\$ 510	\$ (114,413)
Beginning Balance, shares at Dec. 31, 2008	us-gaap_SharesIssued	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItem	na	instant	143,917,850					4,916,800
Net income	us-gaap_NetIncomeLoss	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	duration	1,376,219			1,376,219		
Dividends to stockholders	us-gaap_DividendsCommonStockCash	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	debit	duration	(1,112,058)			(1,112,058)		
Anti-dilution adjustment paid to stock plan participants	do_AntiDilutionAdjustmentPaidToStockPlanParticipants	do	xbri:monetaryItem	debit	duration	(4,571)			(4,571)		
Stock options exercised	us-gaap_StockIssuedDuringPeriodValueStockOptionsExercised	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	duration	1,069		1,069			
Stock options exercised, shares	us-gaap_StockIssuedDuringPeriodSharesStockOptionsExercised	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItem	na	duration	25,128					
Stock-based compensation, net of tax	us-gaap_AdjustmentsToAdditionalPaidInCapitalSharebasedCompensationRequisiteServicePeriodRecognitionValue	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	duration	7,403		7,403			
Net gain (loss) on foreign currency forward exchange contracts	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeDerivativesQualifyingAsHedgesNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	na	duration	1,563				1,563	
Net gain (loss) on investments	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeAvailableForSaleSecuritiesAdjustmentNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	na	duration	(468)				(468)	
Ending balance at Dec. 31, 2009	us-gaap_StockholdersEquity	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	instant	3,630,642	1,439	1,965,513	1,776,498	1,605	(114,413)
Ending Balance, shares at Dec. 31, 2009	us-gaap_SharesIssued	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItem	na	instant	143,942,978					4,916,800
Net income	us-gaap_NetIncomeLoss	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	duration	955,457			955,457		
Dividends to stockholders	us-gaap_DividendsCommonStockCash	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	debit	duration	(729,888)			(729,888)		
Anti-dilution adjustment paid to stock plan participants	do_AntiDilutionAdjustmentPaidToStockPlanParticipants	do	xbri:monetaryItem	debit	duration	(3,072)			(3,072)		
Stock options exercised	us-gaap_StockIssuedDuringPeriodValueStockOptionsExercised	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	duration	31		31			
Stock options exercised, shares	us-gaap_StockIssuedDuringPeriodSharesStockOptionsExercised	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItem	na	duration	646					
Stock-based compensation, net of tax	us-gaap_AdjustmentsToAdditionalPaidInCapitalSharebasedCompensationRequisiteServicePeriodRecognitionValue	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	duration	7,006		7,006			
Net gain (loss) on foreign currency forward exchange contracts	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeDerivativesQualifyingAsHedgesNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	na	duration	1,170				1,170	
Net gain (loss) on investments	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeAvailableForSaleSecuritiesAdjustmentNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	na	duration	366				366	
Ending balance at Dec. 31, 2010	us-gaap_StockholdersEquity	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	instant	3,861,712	1,439	1,972,550	1,998,995	3,141	(114,413)
Ending Balance, shares at Dec. 31, 2010	us-gaap_SharesIssued	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItem	na	instant	143,943,624					4,916,800
Net income	us-gaap_NetIncomeLoss	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	duration	962,542			962,542		
Dividends to stockholders	us-gaap_DividendsCommonStockCash	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	debit	duration	(486,595)			(486,595)		
Anti-dilution adjustment paid to stock plan participants	do_AntiDilutionAdjustmentPaidToStockPlanParticipants	do	xbri:monetaryItem	debit	duration	(2,632)			(2,632)		
Stock options exercised	us-gaap_StockIssuedDuringPeriodValueStockOptionsExercised	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	duration	0					
Stock options exercised, shares	us-gaap_StockIssuedDuringPeriodSharesStockOptionsExercised	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItem	na	duration	3,376	385				
Stock-based compensation, net of tax	us-gaap_AdjustmentsToAdditionalPaidInCapitalSharebasedCompensationRequisiteServicePeriodRecognitionValue	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	duration	5,819		5,819			
Net gain (loss) on foreign currency forward exchange contracts	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeDerivativesQualifyingAsHedgesNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	na	duration	(7,353)				(7,353)	
Net gain (loss) on investments	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeAvailableForSaleSecuritiesAdjustmentNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	na	duration	(430)				(430)	
Ending balance at Dec. 31, 2011	us-gaap_StockholdersEquity	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItem	credit	instant	\$ 4,333,063	\$ 1,439	\$ 1,978,369	\$ 2,472,310	\$ (4,642)	\$ (114,413)
Ending Balance, shares at Dec. 31, 2011	us-gaap_SharesIssued	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItem	na	instant	143,944,009					4,916,800

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Financial Statements - Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity (Parenthetical)

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity (Parenthetical) (USD \$)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	31, 2009
Stockholders dividends per share	us-gaap_CommonStockDividendsPerShareCashPaid	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	duration	\$ 3.50	\$ 5.25	\$ 8.00
Adjustment paid to stock plan participants per share	do_AdjustmentPaidToStockPlanParticipantsPerShare	do	num:perShareItemType	na	duration	\$ 3.00	\$ 4.75	\$ 7.50
Retained Earnings			na					
Stockholders dividends per share	us-gaap_CommonStockDividendsPerShareCashPaid	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	duration	\$ 3.50	\$ 5.25	\$ 8.00
Adjustment paid to stock plan participants per share	do_AdjustmentPaidToStockPlanParticipantsPerShare	do	num:perShareItemType	na	duration	\$ 3.00	\$ 4.75	\$ 7.50

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Financial Statements - Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income [Abstract]	us-gaap_StatementOfIncomeAndComprehensiveIncomeAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration			
Net income	us-gaap_NetIncomeLoss	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	\$ 962,542	\$ 955,457	\$ 1,376,219
Foreign currency forward exchange contracts:	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeForeignCurrencyTransactionAndTranslationAdjustmentNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecreaseAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration			
Unrealized holding gain (loss)	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeUnrealizedGainLossOnDerivativesArisingDuringPeriodNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration (625)	2,334	6,395	
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeReclassificationAdjustmentOnDerivativesIncludedInNetIncomeNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	duration (6,728)	(1,164)	(4,832)	
Investments in marketable securities:	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeAvailableForSaleSecuritiesAdjustmentNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecreaseAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration			
Unrealized holding gain (loss) on investments	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeUnrealizedHoldingGainLossOnSecuritiesArisingDuringPeriodNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration (46)	343	41	
Reclassification adjustment for (gain) loss included in net income	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeReclassificationAdjustmentForSaleOfSecuritiesIncludedInNetIncomeNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	duration (384)	23	(509)	
Total other comprehensive gain (loss)	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeLossNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	na	duration (7,783)	1,536	1,095	
Comprehensive income	us-gaap_ComprehensiveIncomeNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	\$ 954,759	\$ 956,993	\$ 1,377,314

+ References + Details

Financial Statements - Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details						12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name		XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31 2009
Operating activities:	us-gaap_NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivitiesAbstract		us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Net income	us-gaap_NetIncomeLoss		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	\$ 962,542	\$ 955,457	\$ 1,376,219
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:	us-gaap_AdjustmentsToReconcileNetIncomeLossToCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivitiesAbstract		us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Depreciation	us-gaap_CostOfServicesDepreciation		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	398,612	393,177	346,446
Gain on disposition of assets	us-gaap_GainLossOnSaleOfPropertyPlantEquipment		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(4,758)	(34,714)	(7,902)
Loss (gain) on sale of marketable securities, net	us-gaap_MarketableSecuritiesGainLoss		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(779)	7	(619)
(Gain) loss on foreign currency forward exchange contracts	do_GainLossOnForeignCurrencyForwardExchangeContracts		do	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(7,206)	(3,307)	(17,751)
Deferred tax provision	us-gaap_DeferredIncomeTaxExpenseBenefit		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	2,141	(6,916)	85,524
Accretion of discounts on marketable securities	us-gaap_AccretionAmortizationOfDiscountsAndPremiumsInvestments		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	1,586	(648)	(679)
Amortization/write-off of debt issuance costs	us-gaap_AmortizationOfFinancingCosts		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	868	882	672
Amortization of debt discounts	us-gaap_AmortizationOfDebtDiscountPremium		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	230	277	299
Stock-based compensation expense	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensation		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	4,956	5,928	6,440
Excess tax benefits from stock-based payment arrangements	us-gaap_ExcessTaxBenefitFromShareBasedCompensationOperatingActivities		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration			(99)
Deferred income, net	do_DeferredIncomeNet		do	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(32,219)	17,777	37,405
Deferred expenses, net	do_DeferredExpensesNet		do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	53,317	(59,208)	(46,640)
Other assets, noncurrent	us-gaap_IncreaseDecreaseInOtherNoncurrentAssets		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	2,220	2,477	(2,775)
Other liabilities, noncurrent	us-gaap_IncreaseDecreaseInOtherNoncurrentLiabilities		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	10,865	10,941	17,448
Proceeds from settlement of foreign currency forward exchange contracts designated as accounting hedges	do_ProceedsFromSettlementOfForeignCurrencyForwardExchangeContractsDesignatedAsAccountingHedges		do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	7,206	3,307	8,895
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	us-gaap_IncreaseDecreaseInOperatingCapitalAbstract		us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Accounts receivable	us-gaap_IncreaseDecreaseInReceivables		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	60,785	143,096	(219,867)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	us-gaap_IncreaseDecreaseInPrepaidDeferredExpenseAndOtherAssets		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(6,406)	1,519	3,503
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	us-gaap_IncreaseDecreaseInAccountsPayableAndAccruedLiabilities		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(9,842)	33,326	(26,698)
Taxes payable	us-gaap_IncreaseDecreaseInAccruedIncomeTaxesPayable		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(24,013)	(181,060)	(43,007)
Net cash provided by operating activities	us-gaap_NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	na	duration	1,420,105	1,282,318	1,516,814
Investing activities:	us-gaap_NetCashProvidedByUsedInInvestingActivitiesAbstract		us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Capital expenditures (including rig construction)	us-gaap_PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(774,756)	(434,262)	(412,444)
Rig acquisitions	do_RigAcquisition		do	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration			(950,024)
Proceeds from disposition of assets, net of disposal costs	us-gaap_ProceedsFromSaleOfPropertyPlantAndEquipment		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	5,603	188,066	40,462
Proceeds from sale and maturities of marketable securities	us-gaap_ProceedsFromSaleAndMaturityOfMarketableSecurities		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	5,362,138	5,450,230	4,473,891
Purchases of marketable securities	us-gaap_PaymentsToAcquireAvailableForSaleSecurities		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(5,653,665)	(5,660,518)	(4,473,575)
Cost to settle foreign currency forward exchange contracts not designated as accounting hedges	us-gaap_PaymentsForProceedsFromDerivativeInstrumentInvestingActivities		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration			(28,445)
Net cash used in investing activities	us-gaap_NetCashProvidedByUsedInInvestingActivities		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(1,060,680)	(456,484)	(1,350,135)
Financing activities:	us-gaap_NetCashProvidedByUsedInFinancingActivitiesAbstract		us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Redemption of zero coupon debentures	do_RedemptionOfZeroCouponDebentures		do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration		(4,238)	
Issuance of 5.875% senior unsecured notes	us-gaap_ProceedsFromIssuanceOfSeniorLongTermDebt		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration			499,255
Issuance of 5.70% senior unsecured notes	do_ProceedsFromIssuanceOfSeniorUnsecuredNotes		do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration			496,720
Debt issuance costs and arrangement fees	us-gaap_PaymentsOfDebtIssuanceCosts		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration		(98)	(8,671)
Payment of dividends	us-gaap_PaymentsOfDividendsCommonStock		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(490,057)	(733,661)	(1,115,211)
Other	us-gaap_ProceedsFromPaymentsForOtherFinancingActivities		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	4	139	1,593
Net cash used in financing activities	us-gaap_NetCashProvidedByUsedInFinancingActivities		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(490,053)	(737,858)	(126,314)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	us-gaap_CashAndCashEquivalentsPeriodIncreaseDecrease		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	na	duration	(130,628)	87,976	40,365
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	us-gaap_CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	464,393	376,417	336,052
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	us-gaap_CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue		us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 333,765	\$ 464,393	\$ 376,417

+ Details

Financial Statements - Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Parenthetical)

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Parenthetical)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows [Abstract]	us-gaap_StatementOfCashFlowsAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration	
Senior unsecured notes, rate	do_SeniorUnsecuredNotesRateOne	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration	5.875%
Senior unsecured notes, rate	do_SeniorUnsecuredNotesRateTwo	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration	5.70%

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Notes to Financial Statements - General Information

General Information	XBRL Details				12 Months Ended	
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011
General Information [Abstract]	do_GeneralInformationAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration	
General Information						<p>1. General Information</p> <p>Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. is a leading, global offshore oil and gas drilling contractor with a fleet of 49 offshore rigs, consisting of 32 semisubmersibles, 13 jack-ups and four dynamically positioned drillships, three of which are under construction with delivery expected in the second and fourth quarters of 2013 and in the second quarter of 2014. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in these Notes to "Diamond Offshore," "we," "us" or "our" mean Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and our consolidated subsidiaries. We were incorporated in Delaware in 1989.</p> <p>As of February 16, 2012, Loews Corporation, or Loews, owned 50.4% of the outstanding shares of our common stock.</p> <p><i>Principles of Consolidation</i></p> <p>Our consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and our subsidiaries after elimination of intercompany transactions and balances.</p> <p><i>Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements</i></p> <p>The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or U.S., or GAAP, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimated.</p> <p><i>Reclassifications</i></p> <p>Certain amounts applicable to the prior periods have been reclassified to conform to the classifications currently followed. Such reclassifications do not affect earnings.</p> <p><i>Cash and Cash Equivalents, Marketable Securities</i></p> <p>We consider short-term, highly liquid investments that have an original maturity of three months or less and deposits in money market mutual funds that are readily convertible into cash to be cash equivalents.</p> <p>We classify our investments in marketable securities as available for sale and they are stated at fair value in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Accordingly, any unrealized gains and losses, net of taxes, are reported in our Consolidated Balance Sheets in "Accumulated other comprehensive gain (loss)" until realized. The cost of debt securities is adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts to maturity and such adjustments are included in our Consolidated Statements of Operations in "Interest income." The sale and purchase of securities are recorded on the date of the trade. The cost of debt securities sold is based on the specific identification method. Realized gains or losses, as well as any declines in value that are judged to be other than temporary, are reported in our Consolidated Statements of Operations in "Other income (expense) - Other, net."</p> <p>The effect of exchange rate changes on cash balances held in foreign currencies was not material for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.</p> <p><i>Provision for Bad Debts</i></p> <p>We record a provision for bad debts on a case-by-case basis when facts and circumstances indicate that a customer receivable may not be collectible. In establishing these reserves, we consider historical and other factors that predict collectability, including write-offs, recoveries and the monitoring of credit quality. Such provision is reported as a component of "Operating expense" in our Consolidated Statements of Operations. See Note 2.</p> <p><i>Derivative Financial Instruments</i></p> <p>Our derivative financial instruments consist of foreign currency forward exchange, or FOREX, contracts which we may designate as cash flow hedges. In accordance with GAAP, each derivative contract is stated in the balance sheet at its fair value with gains and losses reflected in the income statement except that, to the extent the derivative qualifies for and is designated as an accounting hedge, the gains and losses are reflected in income in the same period as offsetting gains and losses on the qualifying hedged positions. Designated hedges are expected to be highly effective, and therefore, adjustments to record the carrying value of the effective portion of our derivative financial instruments to their fair value are recorded as a component of "Accumulated other comprehensive gain (loss)," or AOCGL, in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. The effective portion of the cash flow hedge will remain in AOCGL until it is reclassified into earnings in the period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings or it is determined that the hedged transaction will not occur. We report such realized gains and losses as a component of "Contract drilling, excluding depreciation" expense in our Consolidated Statements of Operations to offset the impact of foreign currency fluctuations in our expenditures in local foreign currencies in the countries in which we operate.</p> <p>Adjustments to record the carrying value of the ineffective portion of our derivative financial instruments to fair value and realized gains or losses upon settlement of derivative contracts not designated as cash flow hedges are reported as "Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)" in our Consolidated Statements of Operations. See Notes 6 and 7.</p>

Drilling and Other Property and Equipment

We carry our drilling and other property and equipment at cost. Maintenance and routine repairs are charged to income currently while replacements and betterments, which upgrade or increase the functionality of our existing equipment and that significantly extend the useful life of an existing asset, are capitalized. Significant judgments, assumptions and estimates may be required in determining whether or not such replacements and betterments meet the criteria for capitalization and in determining useful lives and salvage values of such assets. Changes in these judgments, assumptions and estimates could produce results that differ from those reported. Historically, the amount of capital additions requiring significant judgments, assumptions or estimates has not been significant. During the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, we capitalized \$269.5 million and \$379.8 million, respectively, in replacements and betterments of our drilling fleet, resulting from numerous projects ranging from \$25,000 to \$50 million per project.

Costs incurred for major rig upgrades and/or the construction of rigs are accumulated in construction work-in-progress, with no depreciation recorded on the additions, until the month the upgrade or newbuild is completed and the rig is placed in service. Upon retirement or sale of a rig, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts and any gains or losses are included in our results of operations as "Gain on disposition of assets." Depreciation is recognized up to applicable salvage values by applying the straight-line method over the remaining estimated useful lives from the year the asset is placed in service. Drilling rigs and equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful lives ranging from three to 30 years.

Capitalized Interest

We capitalize interest cost for the construction and upgrade of qualifying assets. In 2011, we began capitalizing interest on qualifying expenditures related to the construction of three drillships with expected deliveries in 2013 and 2014. There were no qualifying expenditures during 2010 or 2009.

A reconciliation of our total interest cost to "Interest expense" as reported in our Consolidated Statements of Operations is as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Total interest cost including amortization of debt issuance costs	\$ 84,349	\$ 90,698	\$ 49,610
Capitalized interest	(11,212)	—	—
Total interest expense as reported	\$ 73,137	\$ 90,698	\$ 49,610

Asset Retirement Obligations

At December 31, 2011 and 2010, we had no asset retirement obligations.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

We evaluate our property and equipment for impairment whenever changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable (such as cold stacking a rig or excess spending over budget on a newbuild, construction project or major rig upgrade). We utilize a probability-weighted cash flow analysis in testing an asset for potential impairment. Our assumptions and estimates underlying this analysis include the following:

- dayrate by rig;
- utilization rate by rig (expressed as the actual percentage of time per year that the rig would be used);
- the per day operating cost for each rig if active, warm-stacked or cold-stacked;
- the estimated annual cost for rig replacements and/or enhancement programs;
- the estimated maintenance, inspection or other costs associated with a rig returning to work;
- salvage value for each rig; and
- estimated proceeds that may be received on disposition of the rig.

Based on these assumptions and estimates, we develop a matrix using several different utilization/dayrate scenarios, to each of which we have assigned a probability of occurrence. The sum of our utilization scenarios (which include active, warm stacked and cold stacked) and probability of occurrence scenarios both equal 100% in the aggregate. We reevaluate our cold-stacked rigs annually, and we update the matrices for each of our cold stacked rigs at each year end and modify our assumptions giving consideration to the length of time the rig has been cold stacked, the current and expected market for the type of rig and expectations of future oil and gas prices. Further, to test sensitivity, we consider the impact of a 5% reduction in assumed dayrates for the cold-stacked rigs (holding all other assumptions and estimates in the model constant). We would not necessarily record an impairment if the sensitivity analysis indicated potential cash flows would be insufficient to recover our carrying value. We would assess other qualitative factors including industry, regulatory and other relevant conditions to determine whether an impairment or further disclosure is warranted.

A summary of our cold stacked rigs evaluated for impairment at December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was as follows:

December 31,

do_GeneralInformationAndSignificantAccountingPoliciesTextBlock do nonnum:textBlockItemType na

duration

	2011	2010	2009
(In millions, except number of rigs)			
Mid-Water floaters	3	3	1
Jack-ups	5	4	3
Total	8	7	4
Aggregate net book value	\$ 76.5	\$ 78.0	\$ 20.2

We performed an impairment review for each of these rigs using the methodology described above. Based on our analyses, we concluded that these eight, seven and four rigs were not subject to impairment at December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Management's assumptions are an inherent part of our asset impairment evaluation and the use of different assumptions could produce results that differ from those reported.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

We believe that the carrying amount of our current financial instruments approximates fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments. For non-current financial instruments we use quoted market prices, when available, and discounted cash flows to estimate fair value. See Note 7.

Debt Issuance Costs

Debt issuance costs are included in our Consolidated Balance Sheets in "Other assets" and are amortized over the respective terms of the related debt.

Income Taxes

We account for income taxes in accordance with accounting standards that require the recognition of the amount of taxes payable or refundable for the current year and an asset and liability approach in recognizing the amount of deferred tax liabilities and assets for the future tax consequences of events that have been currently recognized in our financial statements or tax returns. In each of our tax jurisdictions we recognize a current tax liability or asset for the estimated taxes payable or refundable on tax returns for the current year and a deferred tax asset or liability for the estimated future tax effects attributable to temporary differences and carryforwards. Deferred tax assets are reduced by a valuation allowance, if necessary, which is determined by the amount of any tax benefits that, based on available evidence, are not expected to be realized under a "more likely than not" approach. We make judgments regarding future events and related estimates especially as they pertain to the forecasting of our effective tax rate, the potential realization of deferred tax assets such as utilization of foreign tax credits, and exposure to the disallowance of items deducted on tax returns upon audit.

We record interest related to accrued unrecognized tax positions in interest expense and recognize penalties associated with uncertain tax positions in our tax expense. See Note 13.

Treasury Stock

Depending on market conditions, we may, from time to time, purchase shares of our common stock in the open market or otherwise. We account for the purchase of treasury stock using the cost method, which reports the cost of the shares acquired in "Treasury stock" as a deduction from stockholders' equity in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We did not repurchase any shares of our outstanding common stock during 2011, 2010 or 2009.

Comprehensive Income (Loss)

Comprehensive income (loss) is the change in equity of a business enterprise during a period from transactions and other events and circumstances except those transactions resulting from investments by owners and distributions to owners. Comprehensive income (loss) for the three years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 includes net income (loss) and unrealized holding gains and losses on marketable securities and financial derivatives designated as cash flow accounting hedges. See Note 10.

Foreign Currency

Our functional currency is the U.S. dollar. Foreign currency transaction gains and losses are reported as "Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)" in our Consolidated Statements of Operations and include, when applicable, unrealized gains and losses to record the carrying value of our FOREX contracts not designated as accounting hedges, as well as realized gains and losses from the settlement of such contracts. For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we recognized aggregate net foreign currency gains (losses) of \$(8.6) million, \$1.4 million and \$11.5 million, respectively. See Note 6.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue from our dayrate drilling contracts is recognized as services are performed. In connection with such drilling contracts, we may receive fees (either lump-sum or dayrate) for the mobilization of equipment. These fees are earned as services are performed over the initial term of the related drilling contracts. We defer mobilization fees received, as well as direct and incremental mobilization costs incurred, and amortize each, on a straight line basis, over the term of the related drilling contracts (which is the period we estimate to be benefited from the mobilization activity). Straight line amortization of mobilization revenues and related costs over the initial term of the related drilling contracts (which generally range from 2 to 60 months) is consistent with the timing of net cash flows generated from the actual drilling services performed. Absent a contract, mobilization costs are recognized as incurred.

From time to time, we may receive fees from our customers for capital improvements to our rigs (either lump-sum or dayrate). We defer such fees received in "Accrued liabilities" and "Other liabilities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets and recognize these fees into income on a straight-line basis over the period of the related drilling contract. We capitalize the costs of such capital

improvements and depreciate them over the estimated useful life of the asset.

We record reimbursements received for the purchase of supplies, equipment, personnel services and other services provided at the request of our customers in accordance with a contract or agreement, for the gross amount billed to the customer, as "Revenues related to reimbursable expenses" in our Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued Accounting Standards Update, or ASU, No. 2011-05, "Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): *Presentation of Comprehensive Income*," or ASU 2011-05, which eliminates the option to present components of other comprehensive income, or OCI, as part of the statement of changes in stockholders' equity, requires the presentation of each component of net income and each component of OCI either in a single continuous statement or in two separate but consecutive statements and also requires presentation of reclassification adjustments on the face of the financial statement. The FASB subsequently deferred the effective date of certain provisions of this standard pertaining to the reclassification of items out of accumulated other comprehensive income, pending the issuance of further guidance on the matter. The remaining portions of ASU 2011-05 are effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011; however, early adoption is permitted. The adoption of ASU 2011-05 will not have an effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-04, "Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): *Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs*," or ASU 2011-04. ASU 2011-04 clarifies existing fair value measurement and disclosure requirements, amends certain fair value measurement principles and requires additional disclosures about fair value measurements. ASU 2011-04 is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. We will incorporate any additional disclosures in our interim and annual financial statements for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2012.

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Notes to Financial Statements - Supplemental Financial Information

Supplemental Financial Information	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended	
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	
Supplemental Financial Information [Abstract]	do_SupplementalFinancialInformationAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Supplemental Financial Information							

2. Supplemental Financial Information

Consolidated Balance Sheet Information

Accounts receivable, net of allowance for bad debts, consists of the following:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
	(In thousands)	
Trade receivables	\$ 555,451	\$ 633,224
Value added tax receivables	11,615	5,003
Interest receivable	2,540	805
Related party receivables	508	538
Other	687	1,944
	570,801	641,514
Allowance for bad debts	(6,867)	(31,908)
Total	\$ 563,934	\$ 609,606

During 2011, we recorded a \$5.7 million provision for bad debts to reserve a portion of the uncollected balance of receivables from one of our current customers in Egypt and recovered \$12.3 million in bad debts, including \$0.2 million from our Egypt customer which had been reserved for in the current year. Recoveries during 2011 also included \$8.4 million in final payments from a previous customer in the North Sea and \$3.7 million from another customer in Egypt for whom we no longer perform work, both of which were reserved for in previous years. In addition, during 2011, we offset \$18.4 million in previously reserved trade receivables against the allowance for bad debts as we had exhausted all methods of recovery against the North Sea customer.

During 2010, we recovered \$9.7 million in previously reserved bad debts. Recoveries during 2010 included \$4.2 million from a previous customer in the North Sea and \$5.5 million from a previous customer in Egypt. No provision for bad debts was deemed necessary for 2010. In 2009, we recorded a \$10.7 million provision for bad debts to reserve a portion of the uncollected balance of receivables related to our operations in Egypt and recovered \$0.9 million associated with the reserve for bad debts recorded in 2008.

Prepaid expenses and other current assets consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
	(In thousands)	
Rig spare parts and supplies	\$ 52,637	\$ 50,288
Deferred mobilization costs	74,659	76,868
Prepaid insurance	12,417	9,587
Deferred tax assets	6,800	9,557
Deposits	1,549	827
Prepaid taxes	37,612	20,347
FOREX contracts	1,262	4,326
Other	5,634	5,353
Total	\$ 192,570	\$ 177,153

Accrued liabilities consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
	(In thousands)	
Rig operating expenses	\$ 108,342	\$ 77,995
Payroll and benefits	77,055	79,866
Deferred revenue	67,894	69,825
Accrued capital		

expenditures	22,725	28,947
Interest payable	21,406	21,219
Construction milestone payments	14,600	154,427
Personal injury and other claims	10,536	11,758
Other	13,842	25,153
Total	\$ 336,400	\$ 469,190

At December 31, 2011 and 2010, we had accrued the first installments of construction milestones payable under our rig construction agreements of \$14.6 million and \$154.4 million, respectively. See Notes 8 and 11.

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows Information

We paid interest on long-term debt totaling \$82.9 million, \$83.5 million and \$39.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. We paid \$0.9 million in interest on Internal Revenue Service assessments during the year ended December 31, 2010.

We paid \$150.5 million, \$128.5 million and \$176.2 million in foreign income taxes, net of foreign tax refunds, during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. We paid \$94.8 million, \$427.5 million and \$252.4 million in U.S. federal income taxes during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. We paid state income taxes, net of refunds, of \$0.2 million, \$0.1 million and \$0.2 million during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Cash payments for capital expenditures for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 included \$28.9 million, \$64.9 million and \$59.4 million, respectively, of capital expenditures that were accrued but unpaid on December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, respectively. Capital expenditures that were accrued but not paid as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 totaled \$37.3 million and \$28.9 million, respectively. We have included these amounts in "Accrued liabilities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2011 and 2010.

We recorded an income tax benefit of \$1.0 million related to the exercise of employee stock options in 2009.

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Notes to Financial Statements - Stock- Based Compensation

	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended																																																																	
Stock- Based Compensation	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011																																																																	
Stock-Based Compensation [Abstract]	us-gaap_DisclosureOfCompensationRelatedCostsSharebasedPaymentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration																																																																		
Stock-Based Compensation						3. Stock-Based Compensation																																																																	
						<p>Our Second Amended and Restated 2000 Stock Option Plan, as amended, or Stock Plan, provides for the issuance of either incentive stock options or non-qualified stock options to our employees, consultants and non-employee directors. Our Stock Plan also authorizes the award of stock appreciation rights, or SARs, in tandem with stock options or separately. The maximum aggregate number of shares of our common stock for which stock options or SARs may be granted is 1,500,000 shares. The exercise price per share may not be less than the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant. Generally, stock options and SARs vest ratably over a four year period and expire in ten years.</p> <p>Total compensation cost recognized for Stock Plan transactions for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was \$5.0 million, \$6.0 million and \$6.5 million, respectively. Tax benefits recognized for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 related thereto were \$1.7 million, \$2.0 million and \$2.1 million, respectively.</p> <p>The fair value of options and SARs granted under the Stock Plan during each of the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was estimated using the Black Scholes pricing model.</p> <p>The following are the weighted average assumptions used in estimating the fair value of our options and SARs:</p> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th colspan="3">Year Ended December 31,</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>2011</th><th>2010</th><th>2009</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Expected life of stock options/SARs (in years)</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Expected volatility</td><td>30.37%</td><td>35.99%</td><td>37.24%</td></tr><tr><td>Dividend yield</td><td>.76%</td><td>.70%</td><td>.62%</td></tr><tr><td>Risk free interest rate</td><td>1.54%</td><td>1.88%</td><td>2.17%</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Expected life of stock options and SARs is based on historical data as is the expected volatility. The dividend yield is based on the current approved regular dividend rate in effect and the current market price at the time of grant. Risk free interest rates are determined using the U.S. Treasury yield curve at time of grant with a term equal to the expected life of the options and SARs.</p> <p>A summary of activity under the Stock Plan as of December 31, 2011 and changes during the year then ended is as follows:</p> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th>Number of Awards</th><th>Weighted-Average Exercise Price</th><th>Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years)</th><th>Aggregate Intrinsic Value (In Thousands)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Awards outstanding at January 1, 2011</td><td>821,524</td><td>\$ 89.66</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Granted</td><td>201,200</td><td>\$ 66.59</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Exercised</td><td>(3,376)</td><td>\$ 63.78</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Forfeited</td><td>(9,996)</td><td>\$ 79.76</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Expired</td><td>(11,192)</td><td>\$ 106.41</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Awards outstanding at December 31, 2011</td><td>998,160</td><td>\$ 85.01</td><td>7.3</td><td>\$ 435</td></tr><tr><td>Awards exercisable at December 31, 2011</td><td>636,920</td><td>\$ 90.53</td><td>6.5</td><td>\$ 435</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>The weighted-average grant date fair values of awards granted during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 were \$18.17, \$23.62 and \$28.46, respectively. The total intrinsic value of awards exercised during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was \$28,000, \$8,000 and \$1.5 million, respectively. The total fair value of awards vested during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was \$5.4 million, \$6.6 million and \$6.6 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2011 there was \$5.8 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to nonvested stock options and SARs granted under the Stock Plan which we expect to recognize over a weighted average period of 2.3 years.</p>			Year Ended December 31,				2011	2010	2009	Expected life of stock options/SARs (in years)	5	5	5	Expected volatility	30.37%	35.99%	37.24%	Dividend yield	.76%	.70%	.62%	Risk free interest rate	1.54%	1.88%	2.17%		Number of Awards	Weighted-Average Exercise Price	Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (In Thousands)	Awards outstanding at January 1, 2011	821,524	\$ 89.66			Granted	201,200	\$ 66.59			Exercised	(3,376)	\$ 63.78			Forfeited	(9,996)	\$ 79.76			Expired	(11,192)	\$ 106.41			Awards outstanding at December 31, 2011	998,160	\$ 85.01	7.3	\$ 435	Awards exercisable at December 31, 2011	636,920	\$ 90.53	6.5	\$ 435
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Granted	201,200	\$ 66.59																																																																					
Exercised	(3,376)	\$ 63.78																																																																					
Forfeited	(9,996)	\$ 79.76																																																																					
Expired	(11,192)	\$ 106.41																																																																					
Awards outstanding at December 31, 2011	998,160	\$ 85.01	7.3	\$ 435																																																																			
Awards exercisable at December 31, 2011	636,920	\$ 90.53	6.5	\$ 435																																																																			
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Notes to Financial Statements - Earnings Per Share

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conversions – diluted (denominator):</td><td>139,038</td><td>139,070</td><td>139,097</td></tr><tr><td>Earnings per share:</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Basic</td><td>\$ 6.92</td><td>\$ 6.87</td><td>\$ 9.90</td></tr><tr><td>Diluted</td><td>\$ 6.92</td><td>\$ 6.87</td><td>\$ 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Ended December 31,				2011	2010	2009	(In thousands, except per share data)				Net income – basic (numerator):	\$ 962,542	\$ 955,457	\$ 1,376,219	Effect of dilutive potential shares				Convertible debentures	—	56	94	Net income including conversions – diluted (numerator):	\$ 962,542	\$ 955,513	\$ 1,376,313	Weighted-average shares – basic (denominator):	139,027	139,026	139,007	Effect of dilutive potential shares				Convertible debentures	—	21	51	Stock options and stock appreciation rights	11	23	39	Weighted-average shares including conversions – diluted (denominator):	139,038	139,070	139,097	Earnings per share:				Basic	\$ 6.92	\$ 6.87	\$ 9.90	Diluted	\$ 6.92	\$ 6.87	\$ 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Weighted-average shares – basic (denominator):	139,027	139,026	139,007																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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Notes to Financial Statements - Marketable Securities

Marketable Securities	XBRL Details				12 Months Ended																																																			
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011																																																		
Marketable Securities [Abstract]	us-gaap_InvestmentsDebtAndEquitySecuritiesAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration																																																			
Marketable Securities						5. Marketable Securities We report our investments in marketable securities as current assets in our Consolidated Balance Sheets in "Marketable securities," representing the investment of cash available for current operations. Our investments in marketable securities are classified as available for sale and are summarized as follows: <table><tr><th colspan="3">December 31, 2011</th></tr><tr><th>Amortized Cost</th><th>Unrealized Gain (Loss)</th><th>Market Value</th></tr><tr><th colspan="3">(In thousands)</th></tr><tr><td>U.S. Treasury Bills/U.S. Treasury Notes (due within one year)</td><td>\$ 902,042</td><td>\$ (59)</td><td>\$901,983</td></tr><tr><td>Mortgage-backed securities</td><td>394</td><td>37</td><td>431</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$ 902,436</td><td>\$ (22)</td><td>\$902,414</td></tr></table>	December 31, 2011			Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Market Value	(In thousands)			U.S. Treasury Bills/U.S. Treasury Notes (due within one year)	\$ 902,042	\$ (59)	\$901,983	Mortgage-backed securities	394	37	431	Total	\$ 902,436	\$ (22)	\$902,414																													
December 31, 2011																																																								
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	us-gaap_InvestmentsInDebtAndMarketableEquitySecuritiesAndCertainTradingAssetsDisclosureTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	<table><tr><th colspan="3">December 31, 2010</th></tr><tr><th>Amortized Cost</th><th>Unrealized Gain</th><th>Market Value</th></tr><tr><th colspan="3">(In thousands)</th></tr><tr><td>U.S. Treasury Bills (due within one year)</td><td>\$ 599,965</td><td>\$ 15</td><td>\$599,980</td></tr><tr><td>Corporate bonds</td><td>11,200</td><td>560</td><td>11,760</td></tr><tr><td>Mortgage-backed securities</td><td>553</td><td>53</td><td>606</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$ 611,718</td><td>\$ 628</td><td>\$612,346</td></tr></table> Proceeds from maturities and sales of marketable securities and gross realized gains and losses are summarized as follows: <table><tr><th colspan="3">Year Ended December 31,</th></tr><tr><th>2011</th><th>2010</th><th>2009</th></tr><tr><th colspan="3">(In thousands)</th></tr><tr><td>Proceeds from maturities</td><td>\$ 5,350,000</td><td>\$ 5,450,000</td><td>\$ 1,925,000</td></tr><tr><td>Proceeds from sales</td><td>12,138</td><td>230</td><td>2,548,891</td></tr><tr><td>Gross realized gains</td><td>784</td><td>—</td><td>791</td></tr><tr><td>Gross realized losses</td><td>(5)</td><td>(7)</td><td>(172)</td></tr></table>	December 31, 2010			Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gain	Market Value	(In thousands)			U.S. Treasury Bills (due within one year)	\$ 599,965	\$ 15	\$599,980	Corporate bonds	11,200	560	11,760	Mortgage-backed securities	553	53	606	Total	\$ 611,718	\$ 628	\$612,346	Year Ended December 31,			2011	2010	2009	(In thousands)			Proceeds from maturities	\$ 5,350,000	\$ 5,450,000	\$ 1,925,000	Proceeds from sales	12,138	230	2,548,891	Gross realized gains	784	—	791	Gross realized losses	(5)	(7)	(172)
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Notes to Financial Statements - Derivative Financial Instruments

Derivative Financial Instruments	XBRL Details				12 Months Ended	
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011
Derivative Financial Instruments [Abstract] Derivative Financial Instruments	us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsAndHedgingActivitiesDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration	

6. Derivative Financial Instruments

Foreign Currency Forward Exchange Contracts

Our international operations expose us to foreign exchange risk associated with our costs payable in foreign currencies for employee compensation, foreign income tax payments and purchases from foreign suppliers. We may utilize FOREX contracts to reduce our foreign exchange risk. Our FOREX contracts may obligate us to exchange predetermined amounts of foreign currencies on specified dates or to net settle the spread between the contracted foreign currency exchange rate and the spot rate on the contract settlement date, which, for most of our contracts, is the average spot rate for the contract period.

We enter into FOREX contracts when we believe market conditions are favorable to purchase contracts for future settlement with the expectation that such contracts, when settled, will reduce our exposure to foreign currency gains and losses on future foreign currency expenditures. The amount and duration of such contracts is based on our monthly forecast of expenditures in the significant currencies in which we do business and for which there is a financial market (i.e., Australian dollars, Brazilian reais, British pounds sterling, Mexican pesos and Norwegian kroner). These forward contracts are derivatives as defined by GAAP.

During the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, we settled FOREX contracts with aggregate notional values of approximately \$318.9 million and \$332.5 million, respectively, of which the entire aggregate amounts were designated as an accounting hedge. During the year ended December 31, 2009, we settled FOREX contracts with an aggregate notional value of approximately \$333.4 million, of which an aggregate notional value of \$112.8 million was designated as an accounting hedge.

The following table presents the amounts recognized in our Consolidated Statements of Operations related to our FOREX contracts designated as hedging instruments for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

Location of Gain Recognized in Income	Amount of Gain Recognized in Income For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Contract drilling expense	\$ 7,206	\$ 3,307	\$ 8,895

The following table presents the amounts recognized in our Consolidated Statements of Operations related to our FOREX contracts not designated as hedging instruments for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

Location of Gain Recognized in Income	Amount of Gain Recognized in Income For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 8,856

The amounts presented in the table above for the year ended December 31, 2009 include net unrealized gains aggregating \$37.3 million to record the carrying value of our derivative financial instruments to their fair value. There were no gains or losses associated with FOREX contracts not designated as accounting hedges during the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010.

As of December 31, 2011, we had FOREX contracts outstanding in the aggregate notional amount of \$154.3 million, consisting of \$21.9 million in Australian dollars, \$81.6 million in Brazilian reais, \$25.2 million in British pounds sterling, \$14.1 million in Mexican pesos and \$11.5 million in Norwegian kroner. These contracts generally settle monthly through June 2012. As of December 31, 2011, all outstanding derivative contracts had been designated as cash flow hedges.

The following table presents the fair values of our derivative financial instruments at December 31, 2011 and 2010.

Balance Sheet Location	Fair Value		Balance Sheet Location	Fair Value	
	December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010		December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010
	(In thousands)			(In thousands)	
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$ 1,262	\$ 4,326	Accrued liabilities	\$ (8,454)	\$ (121)

The following table presents the amounts recognized in our Consolidated Balance Sheets and Consolidated Statements of Operations related to our FOREX contracts designated as cash flow hedges for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

	For the years ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Amount of (loss) gain recognized in AOCI on derivative (effective portion)	\$ (962)	\$ 3,591	\$ 9,838
Location of gain reclassified from AOCI into income (effective portion)	Contract drilling, excluding depreciation	Contract drilling, excluding depreciation	Contract drilling, excluding depreciation
Amount of gain reclassified from AOCI into income (effective portion)	\$ 10,351	\$ 1,790	\$ 7,434
Location of loss recognized in income on derivative (ineffective portion and amount excluded from effectiveness testing)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)
Amount of loss recognized in income on			

us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsAndHedgingActivitiesDisclosureTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	
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derivative (ineffective portion and amount excluded from effectiveness testing)	\$	(85)	\$	—	\$	—
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As of December 31, 2011, the estimated amount of net unrealized losses associated with our FOREX contracts that will be reclassified to earnings during the next twelve months was \$7.1 million. The net unrealized losses associated with these derivative financial instruments will be reclassified to contract drilling expense.

Notes to Financial Statements - Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures

Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures	XBRL Details			12 Months Ended																																									
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type																																								
Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures [Abstract]	us-gaap_FairValueDisclosuresAbstract	us-gaap	xbml:stringItemType	na	duration																																								
Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures																																													
7. Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures																																													
Concentrations of Credit and Market Risk																																													
<p>Financial instruments which potentially subject us to significant concentrations of credit or market risk consist primarily of periodic temporary investments of excess cash, trade accounts receivable and investments in debt securities, including mortgage-backed securities. We generally place our excess cash investments in U.S. government backed short-term money market instruments through several financial institutions. At times, such investments may be in excess of the insurable limit. We periodically evaluate the relative credit standing of these financial institutions as part of our investment strategy.</p>																																													
<p>Most of our investments in debt securities are U.S. government securities with minimal credit risk. However, we are exposed to market risk due to price volatility associated with interest rate fluctuations.</p>																																													
<p>Concentrations of credit risk with respect to our trade accounts receivable are limited primarily due to the entities comprising our customer base. Since the market for our services is the offshore oil and gas industry, this customer base consists primarily of major and independent oil and gas companies and government-owned oil companies. Our two largest customers in Brazil, Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. (a Brazilian multinational energy company that is majority-owned by the Brazilian government) and OGX Petróleo e Gás Ltda. (a privately owned Brazilian oil and natural gas company), accounted for \$110.4 million and \$69.4 million, or 20% and 12%, respectively, of our total consolidated gross trade accounts receivable balances as of December 31, 2011, and \$180.8 million and \$52.4 million, or 29% and 8%, respectively, as of December 31, 2010.</p>																																													
<p>In general, before working for a customer with whom we have not had a prior business relationship and/or whose financial stability may be uncertain to us, we perform a credit review on that company. Based on that analysis, we may require that the customer present a letter of credit, prepay or provide other credit enhancements. Historically, we have not experienced significant losses on our trade receivables. We record a provision for bad debts on a case-by-case basis when facts and circumstances indicate that a customer receivable may not be collectible. Our allowance for bad debts was \$6.9 million and \$31.9 million at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. See Note 2.</p>																																													
<p>During 2009, we amended an existing contractual agreement at a customer's request to provide short-term financial relief. The amended contract obligates the customer to pay us, over the term of the six-well drilling program, an aggregate drilling rate of \$560,000 per day, consisting of \$75,000 per day payable in accordance with our normal credit terms (due 30 days after receipt of invoice) and the remainder of the contractual dayrate, \$485,000 per day, payable through the conveyance of a 27% net profits interest, or NPI, in certain developmental oil-and-gas producing properties.</p>																																													
<p>At December 31, 2011, the six-well drilling program had been completed and \$95.8 million was payable to us from the NPI. We expect to receive the balance within the next twelve months and have presented this amount in "Accounts receivable, net of allowance for bad debts" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. At December 31, 2011, we believe that collectability of the amount owed pursuant to the NPI arrangement was reasonably assured.</p>																																													
<p>At December 31, 2010, \$85.0 million was payable to us from the NPI, of which \$49.6 million and \$35.4 million were presented as "Accounts receivable, net of allowance for bad debts" and "Long-term receivable," respectively, in our Consolidated Balance Sheets.</p>																																													
Fair Values																																													
<p>The amounts reported in our Consolidated Balance Sheets for cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities, accounts receivable, forward exchange contracts, long-term receivables, and accounts payable approximate fair value. Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments are shown below.</p>																																													
<table><tr><th colspan="5">Year Ended December 31,</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>2011</th><th></th><th>2010</th><th></th></tr><tr><th></th><th>Fair Value</th><th>Carrying Value</th><th>Fair Value</th><th>Carrying Value</th></tr><tr><th></th><th colspan="4">(In millions)</th></tr><tr><td>4.875% Senior Notes</td><td>\$ 272.9</td><td>\$ 249.8</td><td>\$ 270.0</td><td>\$ 249.7</td></tr><tr><td>5.15% Senior Notes</td><td>272.7</td><td>249.8</td><td>271.1</td><td>249.7</td></tr><tr><td>5.70% Senior Notes</td><td>555.0</td><td>496.8</td><td>493.1</td><td>496.8</td></tr><tr><td>5.875% Senior Notes</td><td>575.4</td><td>499.4</td><td>550.9</td><td>499.4</td></tr></table>						Year Ended December 31,						2011		2010			Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value		(In millions)				4.875% Senior Notes	\$ 272.9	\$ 249.8	\$ 270.0	\$ 249.7	5.15% Senior Notes	272.7	249.8	271.1	249.7	5.70% Senior Notes	555.0	496.8	493.1	496.8	5.875% Senior Notes	575.4	499.4	550.9	499.4
Year Ended December 31,																																													
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	(In millions)																																												
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5.70% Senior Notes	555.0	496.8	493.1	496.8																																									
5.875% Senior Notes	575.4	499.4	550.9	499.4																																									
<p>We have estimated the fair value amounts by using appropriate valuation methodologies and information available to management as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Considerable judgment is required in developing these estimates, and accordingly, no assurance can be given that the estimated values are indicative of the amounts that would be realized in a free market exchange. The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate the fair value of each class of financial instrument for which it was practicable to estimate that value:</p>																																													
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cash and cash equivalents — The carrying amounts approximate fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments.Marketable securities — The fair values of the debt securities, including residential mortgage-backed securities, available for sale were based on the quoted closing market prices on December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.Accounts receivable and accounts payable — The carrying amounts approximate fair value based on the nature of the instruments.Forward exchange contracts — The fair value of our FOREX contracts was based on both quoted market prices and valuations derived from pricing models on December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.Long-term receivable — The carrying amount approximates fair value based on the nature of the instrument.Long-term debt — The fair value of our 5.70% Senior Notes due 2039, or 5.70% Senior Notes, 5.875% Senior Notes due 2019, or 5.875% Senior Notes, 4.875% Senior Notes due July 1, 2015, or 4.875% Senior Notes, and 5.15% Senior Notes due September 1, 2014, or 5.15% Senior Notes,																																													

us-gaap_FairValueDisclosuresTextBlock us-gaap nonnum:textBlockItemType na duration

was based on the quoted closing market price on December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively, from brokers of these instruments.

Certain of our assets and liabilities are required to be measured at fair value in accordance with GAAP. Fair value is defined as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. The fair value hierarchy prescribed by GAAP requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. There are three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

Level 1	Quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets. Level 1 assets include short-term investments such as money market funds, U.S. Treasury Bills and Treasury notes. Our Level 1 assets at December 31, 2011 consisted of cash held in money market funds of \$303.9 million and investments in U.S. Treasury securities of \$902.0 million. Our Level 1 assets at December 31, 2010 consisted of cash held in money market funds of \$442.2 million and investments in U.S. Treasury Bills of \$600.0 million.
Level 2	Quoted market prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. Level 2 assets and liabilities include residential mortgage-backed securities and over-the-counter FOREX contracts. Our residential mortgage-backed securities are valued using a model-derived valuation technique based on the quoted closing market prices received from a financial institution. Our FOREX contracts are valued based on quoted market prices, which are derived from observable inputs including current spot and forward rates, less the contract rate multiplied by the notional amount. The inputs used in our valuation are obtained from a Bloomberg curve analysis which uses par coupon swap rates to calculate implied forward rates so that projected floating rate cash flows can be calculated. The valuation techniques underlying the models are widely accepted in the financial services industry and do not involve significant judgment.
Level 3	Valuations derived from valuation techniques in which one or more significant inputs or significant value drivers are unobservable. Level 3 assets and liabilities generally include financial instruments whose value is determined using pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies, or similar techniques, as well as instruments for which the determination of fair value requires significant management judgment or estimation or for which there is a lack of transparency as to the inputs used.

Market conditions could cause an instrument to be reclassified among Levels 1, 2 and 3. Our policy regarding fair value measurements of financial instruments transferred into and out of levels is to reflect the transfers as having occurred at the beginning of the reporting period.

Assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below:

December 31, 2011				
Fair Value Measurements Using				Assets at Fair
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3		Value
(In thousands)				
Assets:				
Short-term investments	\$ 1,205,925	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,205,925
FOREX contracts	—	1,262	—	1,262
Mortgage-backed securities	—	431	—	431
Total assets	\$ 1,205,925	\$ 1,693	\$ —	\$ 1,207,618
Liabilities:				
FOREX contracts	\$ —	\$ (8,454)	\$ —	\$ (8,454)

December 31, 2010				
Fair Value Measurements Using				Assets at Fair
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3		Value
(In thousands)				
Assets:				
Short-term investments	\$ 1,042,224	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,042,224
FOREX contracts	—	4,327	—	4,327
Corporate bonds	—	11,760	—	11,760
Mortgage-backed securities	—	606	—	606
Total assets	\$ 1,042,224	\$ 16,693	\$ —	\$ 1,058,917
Liabilities:				
FOREX contracts	\$ —	\$ (121)	\$ —	\$ (121)

Notes to Financial Statements - Drilling and Other Property and Equipment

Drilling and Other Property and Equipment	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended																															
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011																															
Drilling and Other Property and Equipment [Abstract]	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration																																
Drilling and Other Property and Equipment						8. Drilling and Other Property and Equipment																															
						Cost and accumulated depreciation of drilling and other property and equipment are summarized as follows:																															
						<table><tr><th></th><th colspan="2">December 31,</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>2011</th><th>2010</th></tr><tr><th colspan="3">(In thousands)</th></tr><tr><td>Drilling rigs and equipment</td><td>\$ 7,431,713</td><td>\$ 7,163,196</td></tr><tr><td>Construction work-in-progress</td><td>504,805</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Land and buildings</td><td>60,926</td><td>56,536</td></tr><tr><td>Office equipment and other</td><td>49,035</td><td>44,689</td></tr><tr><td>Cost</td><td>8,046,479</td><td>7,264,421</td></tr><tr><td>Less accumulated depreciation</td><td>(3,379,010)</td><td>(2,980,629)</td></tr><tr><td>Drilling and other property and equipment, net</td><td>\$ 4,667,469</td><td>\$ 4,283,792</td></tr></table>			December 31,			2011	2010	(In thousands)			Drilling rigs and equipment	\$ 7,431,713	\$ 7,163,196	Construction work-in-progress	504,805	—	Land and buildings	60,926	56,536	Office equipment and other	49,035	44,689	Cost	8,046,479	7,264,421	Less accumulated depreciation	(3,379,010)	(2,980,629)	Drilling and other property and equipment, net	\$ 4,667,469	\$ 4,283,792
	December 31,																																				
	2011	2010																																			
(In thousands)																																					
Drilling rigs and equipment	\$ 7,431,713	\$ 7,163,196																																			
Construction work-in-progress	504,805	—																																			
Land and buildings	60,926	56,536																																			
Office equipment and other	49,035	44,689																																			
Cost	8,046,479	7,264,421																																			
Less accumulated depreciation	(3,379,010)	(2,980,629)																																			
Drilling and other property and equipment, net	\$ 4,667,469	\$ 4,283,792																																			
	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentDisclosureTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Construction work-in-progress at December 31, 2011 included \$14.6 million and \$490.2 million related to the construction of the <i>Ocean Onyx</i> and our three drillships, respectively. At December 31, 2010, we had recorded the first \$154.4 million payable under our initial drillship construction agreement as “Other Assets” in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. During 2011, we entered into two additional drillship construction agreements and also recorded the first installments paid under these agreements as “Other Assets” in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We transferred aggregate payments of \$478.3 million related to our drillships into construction work-in-progress in August 2011 and commenced capitalization of interest. See Note 11.																															

Notes to Financial Statements - Long-Term Debt

Long-Term Debt	XBRL Details			12 Months Ended																																						
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type																																					
Long-Term Debt [Abstract]	us-gaap_DebtDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration																																					
Dec. 31, 2011																																										
Long-Term Debt																																										
9. Long-Term Debt																																										
Our long-term debt is comprised as follows:																																										
<table><thead><tr><th>Name of Issue</th><th>Aggregate Principal Amount (In millions)</th><th>Maturity Date</th><th>Stated Interest Rate</th><th>Semiannual Interest Payment Dates</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>5.15% Senior Notes</td><td>\$250.0</td><td>September 1, 2014</td><td>5.15%</td><td>March 1 and September 1</td></tr><tr><td>4.875% Senior Notes</td><td>\$250.0</td><td>July 1, 2015</td><td>4.875%</td><td>January 1 and July 1</td></tr><tr><td>5.875% Senior Notes</td><td>\$500.0</td><td>May 1, 2019</td><td>5.875%</td><td>May 1 and November 1</td></tr><tr><td>5.70% Senior Notes</td><td>\$500.0</td><td>October 15, 2039</td><td>5.70%</td><td>April 15 and October 15</td></tr></tbody></table>						Name of Issue	Aggregate Principal Amount (In millions)	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate	Semiannual Interest Payment Dates	5.15% Senior Notes	\$250.0	September 1, 2014	5.15%	March 1 and September 1	4.875% Senior Notes	\$250.0	July 1, 2015	4.875%	January 1 and July 1	5.875% Senior Notes	\$500.0	May 1, 2019	5.875%	May 1 and November 1	5.70% Senior Notes	\$500.0	October 15, 2039	5.70%	April 15 and October 15												
Name of Issue	Aggregate Principal Amount (In millions)	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate	Semiannual Interest Payment Dates																																						
5.15% Senior Notes	\$250.0	September 1, 2014	5.15%	March 1 and September 1																																						
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5.875% Senior Notes	\$500.0	May 1, 2019	5.875%	May 1 and November 1																																						
5.70% Senior Notes	\$500.0	October 15, 2039	5.70%	April 15 and October 15																																						
Our 5.70% Senior Notes, 5.875% Senior Notes, 4.875% Senior Notes and 5.15% Senior Notes are all unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and rank equal in right of payment to its existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness and will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future obligations of our subsidiaries. We have the right to redeem all or a portion of these notes for cash at any time or from time to time, on at least 15 days but not more than 60 days prior written notice, at the redemption price specified in the governing indenture plus accrued and unpaid interest to the date of redemption.																																										
The effective interest rate for each of our senior notes approximates the stated coupon interest rate.																																										
At December 31, 2011 and 2010, the carrying value of our long-term debt was as follows:																																										
us-gaap_DebtDisclosureTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	<table><thead><tr><th colspan="4">December 31,</th></tr><tr><th>2011</th><th colspan="3">2010</th></tr><tr><th colspan="4">(In thousands)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>5.15% Senior Notes</td><td>\$</td><td>249,811</td><td>\$</td><td>249,745</td></tr><tr><td>4.875% Senior Notes</td><td></td><td>249,779</td><td></td><td>249,724</td></tr><tr><td>5.875% Senior Notes</td><td></td><td>499,414</td><td></td><td>499,351</td></tr><tr><td>5.70% Senior Notes</td><td></td><td>496,819</td><td></td><td>496,773</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$</td><td>1,495,823</td><td>\$</td><td>1,495,593</td></tr></tbody></table>	December 31,				2011	2010			(In thousands)				5.15% Senior Notes	\$	249,811	\$	249,745	4.875% Senior Notes		249,779		249,724	5.875% Senior Notes		499,414		499,351	5.70% Senior Notes		496,819		496,773	Total	\$	1,495,823	\$	1,495,593
December 31,																																										
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Total	\$	1,495,823	\$	1,495,593																																						
As of December 31, 2011, the aggregate annual maturity of our long-term debt was as follows:																																										
<table><thead><tr><th colspan="2">(In thousands)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2012</td><td>\$ —</td></tr><tr><td>2013</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>2014</td><td>249,811</td></tr><tr><td>2015</td><td>249,779</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Thereafter</td><td>996,233</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$ 1,495,823</td></tr></tbody></table>						(In thousands)		2012	\$ —	2013	—	2014	249,811	2015	249,779	2016	—	Thereafter	996,233	Total	\$ 1,495,823																					
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Total	\$ 1,495,823																																									

Notes to Financial Statements - Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	XBRL Details			12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) [Abstract]	us-gaap_EquityAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration	
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)						

10. Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

The components of our other comprehensive income (loss) and the associated income tax effects allocated to such components are as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2011		
	Before Tax	Tax Effect	Net-of-Tax
	(In thousands)		
FOREX contracts:			
Unrealized holding loss	\$ (962)	\$ 337	\$ (625)
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(10,351)	3,623	(6,728)
Net unrealized loss on FOREX contracts	(11,313)	3,960	(7,353)
Investments in marketable securities:			
Unrealized holding loss	(61)	15	(46)
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(589)	205	(384)
Net unrealized loss on marketable securities	(650)	220	(430)
Other comprehensive loss	\$ (11,963)	\$ 4,180	\$ (7,783)

	Year Ended December 31, 2010		
	Before Tax	Tax Effect	Net-of-Tax
	(In thousands)		
FOREX contracts:			
Unrealized holding gain	\$ 3,591	\$ (1,257)	\$ 2,334
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(1,790)	626	(1,164)
Net unrealized gain on FOREX contracts	1,801	(631)	1,170
Investments in marketable securities:			
Unrealized holding gain	528	(185)	343
Reclassification adjustment for loss included in net income	36	(13)	23
Net unrealized gain on marketable securities	564	(198)	366
Other comprehensive income	\$ 2,365	\$ (829)	\$ 1,536

	Year Ended December 31, 2009		
	Before Tax	Tax Effect	Net-of-Tax
	(In thousands)		
FOREX contracts:			
Unrealized holding gain	\$ 9,838	\$ (3,443)	\$ 6,395
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(7,434)	2,602	(4,832)
Net unrealized gain on FOREX contracts	2,404	(841)	1,563
Investments in marketable securities:			
Unrealized holding gain	63	(22)	41
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(783)	274	(509)
Net unrealized loss on marketable securities	(720)	252	(468)
Other comprehensive income	\$ 1,684	\$ (589)	\$ 1,095

The components of our accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) included in our Consolidated Balance Sheets are as follows:

	Unrealized Gain (Loss) on		Total Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)
	FOREX Contracts	Marketable Securities	
	(In thousands)		
Balance at January 1, 2010	\$ 1,563	\$ 42	\$ 1,605
Other comprehensive gain	1,170	366	1,536
Balance at December 31, 2010	2,733	408	3,141
Other comprehensive loss	(7,353)	(430)	(7,783)
Balance at December 31, 2011	\$ (4,620)	\$ (22)	\$ (4,642)

+ References+ Details

Notes to Financial Statements - Commitments and Contingencies

Commitments and Contingencies	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011
Commitments and Contingencies [Abstract] Commitments and Contingencies	us-gaap_CommitmentsAndContingenciesDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration	<p>11. Commitments and Contingencies</p> <p>Various claims have been filed against us in the ordinary course of business, including claims by offshore workers alleging personal injuries. With respect to each claim or exposure, we have made an assessment, in accordance with GAAP, of the probability that the resolution of the matter would ultimately result in a loss. When we determine that an unfavorable resolution of a matter is probable and such amount of loss can be determined, we record a liability for the amount of the estimated loss at the time that both of these criteria are met. Our management believes that we have recorded adequate accruals for any liabilities that may reasonably be expected to result from these claims.</p> <p><i>Litigation.</i> We are one of several unrelated defendants in 30 lawsuits filed in Louisiana and Mississippi state courts alleging that defendants manufactured, distributed or utilized drilling mud containing asbestos and, in our case, allowed such drilling mud to have been utilized aboard our offshore drilling rigs. The plaintiffs seek, among other things, an award of unspecified compensatory and punitive damages. The manufacture and use of asbestos-containing drilling mud had already ceased before we acquired any of the drilling rigs addressed in</p>

these lawsuits. We believe that we are not liable for the damages asserted and we expect to receive complete defense and indemnity with respect to a majority of the lawsuits from Murphy Exploration & Production Company pursuant to the terms of our 1992 asset purchase agreement with them. We also believe that we are not liable for the damages asserted in the remaining lawsuits pursuant to the terms of our 1989 asset purchase agreement with Diamond M Corporation, and we have filed a declaratory judgment action in Texas state court against NuStar Energy LP, the successor to Diamond M Corporation, seeking a judicial determination that we did not assume liability for these claims. We are unable to estimate our potential exposure, if any, to these lawsuits at this time but do not believe that ultimate liability, if any, resulting from this litigation will have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Various other claims have been filed against us in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of our management, no pending or known threatened claims, actions or proceedings against us are expected to have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

We intend to defend these matters vigorously; however, we cannot predict with certainty the outcome or effect of any litigation matters specifically described above or any other

pending litigation or claims. There can be no assurance as to the ultimate outcome of these lawsuits.

Personal Injury Claims. Our deductibles for marine liability insurance coverage, including personal injury claims, which primarily result from Jones Act liability in the Gulf of Mexico, are currently \$10.0 million per the first occurrence, with no aggregate deductible, and vary in amounts ranging between \$5.0 million and, if aggregate claims exceed certain thresholds, up to \$100.0 million for each subsequent occurrence, depending on the nature, severity and frequency of claims which might arise during the policy year. The Jones Act is a federal law that permits seamen to seek compensation for certain injuries during the course of their employment on a vessel and governs the liability of vessel operators and marine employers for the work-related injury or death of an employee. We engage outside consultants to assist us in estimating our aggregate liability for personal injury claims based on our historical losses and utilizing various actuarial models. We allocate a portion of the aggregate liability to “Accrued liabilities” based on an estimate of claims expected to be paid within the next twelve months with the residual recorded as “Other liabilities.” At December 31, 2011, our estimated liability for personal injury claims was \$32.7 million, of which \$10.1 million and \$22.6 million were recorded in “Accrued liabilities” and

us-gaap_CommitmentsAndContingenciesDisclosureTextBlock

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gaap

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duration

“Other liabilities,” respectively, in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. At December 31, 2010, our estimated liability for personal injury claims was \$35.0 million, of which \$11.1 million and \$23.9 million were recorded in “Accrued liabilities” and “Other liabilities,” respectively, in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. The eventual settlement or adjudication of these claims could differ materially from our estimated amounts due to uncertainties such as:

- the severity of personal injuries claimed;
- significant changes in the volume of personal injury claims;
- the unpredictability of legal jurisdictions where the claims will ultimately be litigated;
- inconsistent court decisions; and
- the risks and lack of predictability inherent in personal injury litigation.

Purchase Obligations. In December 2011, we entered into an agreement with Keppel AmFELS, L.L.C., or Keppel, for the construction of a moored semisubmersible rig designed to operate in water depths up to 6,000 feet. The rig, to be named the *Ocean Onyx*, will be constructed utilizing the hull of one of our mid-water floaters that previously operated as the *Ocean Voyager*. The project is estimated to be completed in the third quarter of 2013 at an aggregate cost of approximately \$300 million, including commissioning, spares and project management costs. The

contracted price due to Keppel for the construction of the rig is payable in 11 installments based on the occurrence of certain events as detailed in the vessel modification agreement. The first milestone payment in the amount of \$14.6 million was payable upon signing of the agreement and was accrued in "Accrued liabilities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2011.

In addition, since December 2010, we have entered into three separate turnkey contracts with Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., Ltd., or Hyundai, for the construction of three dynamically positioned, ultra-deepwater drillships, with deliveries scheduled for the second and fourth quarters of 2013 and in the second quarter of 2014. The aggregate cost of the three drillships, including commissioning, spares and project management, is expected to be approximately \$1.8 billion.

The contracted price of each drillship is payable in two installments. At December 31, 2010, we had accrued the initial installment payable to Hyundai for the first drillship of \$154.4 million in "Accrued liabilities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. The first installments for all three drillships, aggregating \$478.3 million, were paid in the first and second quarters of 2011.

At December 31, 2011 and 2010, we had no other purchase obligations for major rig upgrades or any other significant obligations, except for those related to our

direct rig operations, which arise during the normal course of business.

Operating Leases. We lease office and yard facilities, housing, equipment and vehicles under operating leases, which expire at various times through the year 2015. Total rent expense amounted to \$9.3 million, \$8.0 million and \$6.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Future minimum rental payments under leases are approximately \$1.8 million, \$1.1 million, \$0.7 million and \$0.1 million for the years ending December 31, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively. There are no minimum future rental payments under leases after 2015.

Letters of Credit and Other. We were contingently liable as of December 31, 2011 in the amount of \$108.4 million under certain performance, bid, supersedeas, tax appeal and custom bonds and letters of credit that included one \$11.8 million bond, which had been purchased from a related party after obtaining competitive quotes. Agreements relating to approximately \$88.2 million of performance bonds can require collateral at any time. As of December 31, 2011, we had not been required to make any collateral deposits with respect to these agreements. The remaining agreements cannot require collateral except in events of default. On our behalf, banks have issued letters of credit securing certain of these bonds.

Notes to Financial Statements - Related-Party Transactions

Related-Party Transactions	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended	
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	
Related-Party Transactions [Abstract]	us-gaap_RelatedPartyTransactionsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Related-Party Transactions							<p>12. Related-Party Transactions</p> <p><i>Transactions with Loews.</i> We are party to a services agreement with Loews, or the Services Agreement, pursuant to which Loews performs certain administrative and technical services on our behalf. Such services include personnel, internal auditing, accounting, and cash management services, in addition to advice and assistance with respect to preparation of tax returns and obtaining insurance. Under the Services Agreement, we are required to reimburse Loews for (i) allocated personnel costs (such as salaries, employee benefits and payroll taxes) of the Loews personnel actually providing such services and (ii) all out-of-pocket expenses related to the provision of such services. The Services Agreement may be terminated at our option upon 30 days' notice to Loews and at the option of Loews upon six months' notice to us. In addition, we have agreed to indemnify Loews for all claims and</p>

				damages arising from the provision of services by Loews under the Services Agreement unless due to the gross negligence or willful misconduct of Loews. We were charged \$1.1 million, \$1.3 million and \$1.1 million by Loews for these support functions during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.
us-gaap_RelatedPartyTransactionsDisclosureTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType na	duration	<p>In addition, since 2006 we have purchased performance and appeal bonds in support of our drilling operations offshore Mexico and workers compensation claims, respectively, from affiliates of a majority-owned subsidiary of Loews after obtaining competitive quotes. At December 31, 2011, one such performance bond totaling \$11.8 million was outstanding. Premiums and fees associated with bonds purchased from affiliates totaled \$80,000, \$58,000 and \$213,000 in 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.</p> <p><i>Transactions with Other Related Parties.</i> We hire marine vessels and helicopter transportation services at the prevailing market rate from subsidiaries of SEACOR Holdings Inc. The Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief</p>

Executive
Officer of
SEACOR
Holdings Inc.
is also a
member of our
Board of
Directors. For
the years
ended
December 31,
2011, 2010 and
2009, we paid
\$0.1 million,
\$3.1 million
and \$3.6
million,
respectively,
for the hire of
such vessels
and such
services.

During the
years ended
December 31,
2011, 2010 and
2009 we made
payments of
\$1.2 million,
\$1.0 million
and \$2.1
million,
respectively,
to Ernst &
Young LLP for
tax and other
consulting
services. The
wife of our
President and
Chief
Executive
Officer is an
audit partner
at this firm.

liability related to a goodwill deduction resulting from a prior period stock acquisition	(2,950)	(8,850)	(8,850)
Domestic production activities deduction	—	—	(6,271)
Uncertain tax positions	(7,733)	30,950	8,003
Amortization of deferred charges associated with intercompany rig sales to other tax jurisdictions	29,556	30,442	14,167
Long-term capital gain on dividend distribution	—	—	2,450
Net expense (benefit) in connection with resolutions of tax issues and adjustments relating to prior years	(6,085)	(7,346)	6,916
Other	563	610	979
Income tax expense	\$ 216,729	\$ 380,559	\$ 492,212

Significant components of our deferred income tax assets and liabilities are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
	(In thousands)	
Deferred tax assets:		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	\$ 27,212	\$ 34,824
Goodwill	—	1,049
Worker's compensation and other current accruals (1)	15,487	17,178
Disputed receivables reserved	6	2,521
Deferred compensation	4,504	7,478
Foreign contribution taxes	5,615	3,100
Foreign tax credits	—	186
Nonqualified stock options and SARs	7,538	6,048
Other	2,212	3,133
Total deferred tax assets	62,574	75,517
Valuation allowance for foreign tax credits	—	(186)
Valuation allowance for NOLs	(26,353)	(31,916)
Net deferred tax assets	36,221	43,415
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Depreciation	(558,915)	(558,346)
Unbilled revenue	(3,216)	(347)
Mobilization	(3,939)	(2,181)
Undistributed earnings of foreign subsidiaries	(24)	(15,023)
Other	(141)	(219)
Total deferred tax liabilities	(566,235)	(576,116)
Net deferred tax liability	\$ (530,014)	\$ (532,701)

(1) \$6.8 million and \$9.6 million reflected in "Prepaid expenses and other current assets" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. See Note 2.

We record a valuation allowance to derecognize a portion of our deferred tax assets, which we do not expect to be ultimately realized. A summary of changes in the valuation allowance is as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(In thousands)		
Valuation allowance as of January 1	\$ 32,102	\$ 30,975	\$ 29,087
Establishment of valuation allowances:			
Foreign tax credits	(186)	79	107
Net operating losses	1,844	13,381	2,025
Releases of valuation			

us-gaap_IncomeTaxDisclosureTextBlock US-gaap nonnum:textBlockItemType na duration

allowances in various jurisdictions	(7,407)	(12,333)	(244)
Valuation allowance as of			
December 31	\$ 26,353	\$ 32,102	\$ 30,975

Our income tax returns are subject to review and examination in the various jurisdictions in which we operate and we are currently contesting various tax assessments. We accrue for income tax contingencies, or uncertain tax positions, that we believe are more likely than not exposures. A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits, excluding interest and penalties, is as follows:

	Long term Tax Receivable	Long term Tax Payable	Net Liability for Uncertain Tax Positions
(In thousands)			
Balance at January 1, 2009	\$ 5,534	\$ (29,231)	\$ (23,697)
Reduction based on tax positions related to a prior year	—	(4,557)	(4,557)
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	2,441	(6,781)	(4,340)
Reductions as a result of a lapse of the applicable statute of limitations	(1,504)	7,090	5,586
Balance at December 31, 2009	\$ 6,471	\$ (33,479)	\$ (27,008)
Additions based on tax positions related to a prior year	—	(15,764)	(15,764)
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	565	(3,729)	(3,164)
Balance at December 31, 2010	\$ 7,036	\$ (52,972)	\$ (45,936)
Reduction based on tax positions related to a prior year	—	1,851	1,851
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	145	(1,045)	(900)
Reductions as a result of a lapse of the applicable statute of limitations	—	3,744	3,744
Balance at December 31, 2011	\$ 7,181	\$ (48,422)	\$ (41,241)

At December 31, 2011, all \$41.2 million of the net unrecognized tax benefits would affect the effective tax rate if recognized.

We record interest related to accrued unrecognized tax positions in interest expense and recognize penalties associated with uncertain tax positions in our tax expense. During the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, we recognized \$0.2 million and \$4.8 million of interest expense related to uncertain tax positions, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2009, we recorded a net reduction to interest expense of \$3.4 million. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we recorded a net reduction to penalty related tax expense for uncertain tax positions of \$3.0 million. Penalty related tax expense for uncertain tax positions during the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 was \$12.0 million and \$4.7 million, respectively. Accruals for the payment of interest and penalties in our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2011 and 2010 were \$31.4 million and \$34.2 million, respectively.

In several of the international locations in which we operate, certain of our wholly-owned subsidiaries enter into agreements with other of our wholly-owned subsidiaries to provide specialized services and equipment in support of our foreign operations. We apply a transfer pricing methodology to determine the amount to be charged for providing the services and equipment. In most cases, there are alternative transfer pricing methodologies that could be applied to these transactions and, if applied, could result in different chargeable amounts. Taxing authorities in the various foreign locations in which we operate could apply one of the alternative transfer pricing methodologies which could result in an increase to our income tax liabilities with respect to tax returns that remain subject to examination.

We file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction, various state jurisdictions and various foreign jurisdictions. Tax years that remain subject to examination by these jurisdictions include years 2003 to 2010. We are currently under audit in several of these jurisdictions. We do not anticipate that any adjustments resulting from the tax audits will have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, financial position and cash flows. During 2011, an audit by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for the year 2008 was completed without any adjustment proposed by the auditors.

The Brazilian tax authorities have audited our income tax returns for

the years 2000, 2004 and 2005 and are currently auditing our income tax return for the year 2007. The tax auditors have issued an assessment for tax year 2000 of approximately \$1.5 million, including interest and penalty. We have appealed the tax assessment and are awaiting the outcome of the appeal. In December 2009, we received an assessment of approximately \$26.0 million for the years 2004 and 2005, including interest and penalty. We contested the tax assessment in January 2010 and are awaiting the outcome of the appeal. As required by GAAP, only the portion of the tax benefit that has a greater than 50% likelihood of being realized upon settlement is to be recognized. Consequently, we have accrued approximately \$13.8 million of expense attributable to the portion of the tax assessment we determined to be an uncertain tax position, of which approximately \$3.6 million is interest related and approximately \$3.5 million is penalty related. We do not anticipate that any adjustments resulting from the tax audit of any of these years will have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, financial position and cash flows. During 2011, unrecognized tax benefits were reduced by approximately \$6.8 million due to the lapse in the applicable statute of limitations for the 2006 tax year, of which \$1.1 million was interest and \$2.0 million was penalty.

The Mexican tax authorities have audited our income tax returns for the years 2004 and 2006. The tax auditors have issued assessments for tax year 2004 of approximately \$22.9 million, including interest and penalties. We have appealed the tax assessments and are awaiting the outcome of the appeals. In January 2012, we received tax assessments for the tax year 2006 of approximately \$24.4 million including interest and penalties. We do not anticipate that any adjustments resulting from the tax audits of any of these years will have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

As of December 31, 2011, we had recorded a deferred tax asset of \$27.2 million for the benefit of NOL carryforwards related to our international operations. Approximately \$8.2 million of this deferred tax asset relates to NOL carryforwards that have an indefinite life. The remaining \$19.0 million relates to NOL carryforwards of our Mexican entities. Unless utilized, the tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards will expire between 2014 and 2021 as follows:

Tax Benefit of NOL Carryforwards	
Year Expiring	(In millions)
2014	\$ 1.2
2015	4.5
2016	7.2
2017	5.8
2018	—
2019	—
2020	0.2
2021	0.1
Total	\$ 19.0

As of December 31, 2011, a valuation allowance of \$26.4 million has been recorded for our NOLs as only \$0.8 million of the deferred tax asset is more likely than not to be realized.

Notes to Financial Statements - Employee Benefit Plans

Employee Benefit Plans	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended	
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	
Employee Benefit Plans [Abstract]	us-gaap_CompensationAndRetirementDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Employee Benefit Plans						<p>14. Employee Benefit Plans</p> <p><i>Defined Contribution Plans</i></p> <p>We maintain defined contribution retirement plans for our U.S., United Kingdom, or U.K., and third-country national, or TCN, employees. The plan for our U.S. employees, or the 401k Plan, is designed to qualify under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code. Under the 401k Plan, each participant may elect to defer taxation on a portion of his or her eligible earnings, as defined by the 401k Plan, by directing his or her employer to withhold a percentage of such earnings. A participating employee may also elect to make after-tax contributions to the 401k Plan. During the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we made a profit-share contribution of 4%, 4% and 5%, respectively, of participants' defined compensation and in each year matched up to 6% of each employee's compensation contributed to the 401k Plan. Participants are fully vested in the employer match immediately upon enrollment in the 401k Plan and subject to a three year cliff vesting period for the profit sharing</p>	

us-gaap_PensionAndOtherPostretirementBenefitsDisclosureTextBlock us-gaap nonnum:textBlockItemType na

contribution.
For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, our provision for contributions was \$21.5 million, \$23.8 million and \$26.0 million, respectively.

The defined contribution retirement plan for our U.K. employees provides that we make annual contributions in an amount equal to the employee's contributions, generally up to a maximum of 5.25% of the employee's defined compensation per year for employees working in the U.K. sector of the North Sea and up to a maximum of 9% of the employee's defined compensation per year for U.K. nationals working in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. Our provision for contributions was \$1.2 million, \$1.2 million and \$1.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

The defined contribution retirement plan for our TCN employees, or International Savings Plan, is similar to the 401k Plan. During the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we contributed 4%, 4% and 5%, respectively, of participants' defined compensation and in each year matched up to 6% of each employee's compensation contributed to the International Savings Plan. Our provision for contributions was \$2.9 million, \$2.8 million and \$2.5 million for

the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Deferred Compensation and Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan

Our Amended and Restated Diamond Offshore Management Company Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, or Supplemental Plan, provides benefits to a select group of our management or other highly compensated employees to compensate such employees for any portion of our base salary contribution and/or matching contribution under the 401k Plan that could not be contributed to that plan because of limitations within the Code. Our provision for contributions to the Supplemental Plan for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 was approximately \$245,000, \$238,000 and \$241,000, respectively.

Notes to Financial Statements - Segments and Geographic Area Analysis

Segments and Geographic Area Analysis	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended																																																						
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011																																																						
Segments and Geographic Area Analysis [Abstract]	us-gaap_SegmentReportingAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration																																																							
Segments and Geographic Area Analysis						15. Segments and Geographic Area Analysis																																																						
						Although we provide contract drilling services with different types of offshore drilling rigs and also provide such services in many geographic locations, we have aggregated these operations into one reportable segment based on the similarity of economic characteristics among all divisions and locations, including the nature of services provided and the type of customers of such services.																																																						
						Revenues from contract drilling services by equipment-type are listed below:																																																						
						<table><tr><th colspan="4">Year Ended December 31,</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>2011</th><th>2010</th><th>2009</th></tr><tr><th colspan="4">(In thousands)</th></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Floaters:</td></tr><tr><td>Ultra-Deepwater</td><td>\$ 841,565</td><td>\$ 718,426</td><td>\$ 746,050</td></tr><tr><td>Deepwater</td><td>733,037</td><td>564,315</td><td>525,877</td></tr><tr><td>Mid-Water</td><td>1,482,032</td><td>1,678,793</td><td>1,807,428</td></tr><tr><td>Total Floaters</td><td>3,056,634</td><td>2,961,534</td><td>3,079,355</td></tr><tr><td>Jack-ups</td><td>197,534</td><td>267,983</td><td>457,224</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>145</td><td>219</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Total contract drilling revenues</td><td>3,254,313</td><td>3,229,736</td><td>3,536,579</td></tr><tr><td>Revenues related to reimbursable expenses</td><td>68,106</td><td>93,238</td><td>94,705</td></tr><tr><td>Total revenues</td><td>\$ 3,322,419</td><td>\$ 3,322,974</td><td>\$ 3,631,284</td></tr></table>			Year Ended December 31,					2011	2010	2009	(In thousands)				Floaters:				Ultra-Deepwater	\$ 841,565	\$ 718,426	\$ 746,050	Deepwater	733,037	564,315	525,877	Mid-Water	1,482,032	1,678,793	1,807,428	Total Floaters	3,056,634	2,961,534	3,079,355	Jack-ups	197,534	267,983	457,224	Other	145	219	—	Total contract drilling revenues	3,254,313	3,229,736	3,536,579	Revenues related to reimbursable expenses	68,106	93,238	94,705	Total revenues	\$ 3,322,419	\$ 3,322,974	\$ 3,631,284
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						Geographic Areas																																																						
						Our drilling rigs are highly mobile and may be moved to other markets throughout the world in response to market conditions or customer needs. At December 31, 2011, our drilling rigs were located offshore 13 countries in addition to the United States. Revenues by geographic area are presented by attributing revenues to the individual country or areas where the services were performed.																																																						
						<table><tr><th colspan="4">Year Ended December 31,</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>2011</th><th>2010</th><th>2009</th></tr><tr><th colspan="4">(In thousands)</th></tr><tr><td>United States</td><td>\$ 323,381</td><td>\$ 635,545</td><td>\$ 1,232,940</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">International:</td></tr><tr><td>South America</td><td>1,736,798</td><td>1,308,641</td><td>716,448</td></tr><tr><td>Australia/Asia</td><td>451,364</td><td>641,372</td><td>717,658</td></tr><tr><td>Europe/Africa/Mediterranean</td><td>749,128</td><td>601,122</td><td>641,180</td></tr><tr><td>Mexico</td><td>61,748</td><td>136,294</td><td>323,058</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>2,999,038</td><td>2,687,429</td><td>2,398,344</td></tr><tr><td>Total revenues</td><td>\$3,322,419</td><td>\$3,322,974</td><td>\$3,631,284</td></tr></table>			Year Ended December 31,					2011	2010	2009	(In thousands)				United States	\$ 323,381	\$ 635,545	\$ 1,232,940	International:				South America	1,736,798	1,308,641	716,448	Australia/Asia	451,364	641,372	717,658	Europe/Africa/Mediterranean	749,128	601,122	641,180	Mexico	61,748	136,294	323,058		2,999,038	2,687,429	2,398,344	Total revenues	\$3,322,419	\$3,322,974	\$3,631,284								
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Total revenues	\$3,322,419	\$3,322,974	\$3,631,284																																																									
						An individual international country may, from time to time, comprise a material percentage of our total contract drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers. For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, individual countries that comprised 5% or more of our total contract drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers are listed below.																																																						
						<table><tr><th colspan="4">Year Ended December 31,</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>2011</th><th>2010</th><th>2009</th></tr><tr><td>Brazil</td><td>49.4%</td><td>36.8%</td><td>18.2%</td></tr><tr><td>Angola</td><td>9.6%</td><td>6.1%</td><td>1.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Australia</td><td>6.7%</td><td>10.0%</td><td>10.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Indonesia</td><td>5.0%</td><td>1.3%</td><td>1.2%</td></tr><tr><td>United Kingdom</td><td>4.6%</td><td>5.6%</td><td>6.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Mexico</td><td>1.9%</td><td>4.1%</td><td>8.9%</td></tr></table>			Year Ended December 31,					2011	2010	2009	Brazil	49.4%	36.8%	18.2%	Angola	9.6%	6.1%	1.8%	Australia	6.7%	10.0%	10.8%	Indonesia	5.0%	1.3%	1.2%	United Kingdom	4.6%	5.6%	6.7%	Mexico	1.9%	4.1%	8.9%																				
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						A substantial portion of our assets is mobile, and therefore asset locations at the end of the period are not necessarily indicative of the geographic distribution of the earnings generated by such assets during the periods and may vary from period to period due to the relocation of rigs. In circumstances where our drilling rigs were in transit at the end of a calendar year, they have been presented in the tables below within the geographic area in which they are expected to operate.																																																						
						The following table presents our long-lived tangible assets by geographic location as of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.																																																						
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						(i) Long-lived tangible assets in the Australia/Asia/Middle East region as of December 31, 2011 include \$490.2 million in construction work-in-progress for three drillships under construction in South Korea.																																																						
						The following table presents the countries in which material																																																						

concentrations of our long-lived tangible assets were located as of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009:

	December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Brazil	41.9%	52.7%	19.7%
South Korea			
(1)	10.5%	—	—
Angola	8.0%	1.7%	1.9%
Mexico	7.3%	0.9%	2.3%
Vietnam	6.6%	0.6%	0.6%
United States	6.1%	14.9%	49.1%
Egypt	5.5%	6.3%	0.9%
Republic of Congo	—	9.3%	—
Singapore	—	1.9%	11.5%

(1) Assets in South Korea, as of December 31, 2011, include \$490.2 million in construction work-in-progress for our three drillships under construction.

As of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, no other countries had more than a 5% concentration of our long-lived tangible assets.

Major Customers

Our customer base includes major and independent oil and gas companies and government-owned oil companies. Revenues from our major customers for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 that contributed more than 10% of our total revenues are as follows:

Customer	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Petróleo Brasileiro S.A.	35.0%	23.7%	15.0%
OGX Petróleo e Gás Ltda.	14.1%	14.1%	1.4%

Notes to Financial Statements - Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data

Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data	XBRL Details			12 Months Ended																																																																																												
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011																																																																																										
Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data [Abstract]	us-gaap_QuarterlyFinancialInformationDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration																																																																																											
Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data						16. Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data																																																																																										
						Unaudited summarized financial data by quarter for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 is shown below.																																																																																										
						<table><thead><tr><th></th><th>First Quarter</th><th>Second Quarter</th><th>Third Quarter</th><th>Fourth Quarter</th></tr><tr><th colspan="5">(In thousands, except per share data)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2011</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Revenues</td><td>\$ 806,389</td><td>\$ 889,496</td><td>\$ 878,177</td><td>\$ 748,357</td></tr><tr><td>Operating income ^(a)</td><td>319,265</td><td>367,596</td><td>350,277</td><td>218,275</td></tr><tr><td>Income before income tax expense</td><td>296,849</td><td>344,026</td><td>334,849</td><td>203,547</td></tr><tr><td>Net income ^(a)</td><td>250,612</td><td>266,586</td><td>256,854</td><td>188,490</td></tr><tr><td>Net income per share:</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Basic</td><td>\$ 1.80</td><td>\$ 1.92</td><td>\$ 1.85</td><td>\$ 1.36</td></tr><tr><td>Diluted</td><td>\$ 1.80</td><td>\$ 1.92</td><td>\$ 1.85</td><td>\$ 1.36</td></tr><tr><td>2010</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Revenues</td><td>\$ 859,681</td><td>\$ 822,603</td><td>\$ 799,724</td><td>\$ 840,966</td></tr><tr><td>Operating income ^(a)</td><td>426,677</td><td>345,807</td><td>317,180</td><td>335,710</td></tr><tr><td>Income before income tax expense</td><td>406,012</td><td>320,926</td><td>298,566</td><td>310,512</td></tr><tr><td>Net income ^(a)</td><td>290,853</td><td>224,393</td><td>198,524</td><td>241,687</td></tr><tr><td>Net income per share:</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Basic</td><td>\$ 2.09</td><td>\$ 1.61</td><td>\$ 1.43</td><td>\$ 1.74</td></tr><tr><td>Diluted</td><td>\$ 2.09</td><td>\$ 1.61</td><td>\$ 1.43</td><td>\$ 1.74</td></tr></tbody></table>		First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	(In thousands, except per share data)					2011					Revenues	\$ 806,389	\$ 889,496	\$ 878,177	\$ 748,357	Operating income ^(a)	319,265	367,596	350,277	218,275	Income before income tax expense	296,849	344,026	334,849	203,547	Net income ^(a)	250,612	266,586	256,854	188,490	Net income per share:					Basic	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.36	Diluted	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.36	2010					Revenues	\$ 859,681	\$ 822,603	\$ 799,724	\$ 840,966	Operating income ^(a)	426,677	345,807	317,180	335,710	Income before income tax expense	406,012	320,926	298,566	310,512	Net income ^(a)	290,853	224,393	198,524	241,687	Net income per share:					Basic	\$ 2.09	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.43	\$ 1.74	Diluted	\$ 2.09	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.43	\$ 1.74
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	us-gaap_QuarterlyFinancialInformationTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	<table><tbody><tr><td>(a)</td><td>Results for the fourth quarter of 2011 include a \$1.3 million recovery of bad debt reserves recorded in previous years.</td></tr><tr><td>(b)</td><td>Results for the fourth quarter of 2011 reflect a reduction in income tax expense, primarily as a result of a year-end true up related to foreign taxes.</td></tr><tr><td>(c)</td><td>Results for the fourth quarter of 2010 include a \$3.9 million recovery of bad debt reserves recorded in previous years.</td></tr><tr><td>(d)</td><td>Results for the fourth quarter of 2010 reflect a reduction in income tax expense, partially attributable to recording the full year tax effect of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 that was passed in mid-December 2010.</td></tr></tbody></table>	(a)	Results for the fourth quarter of 2011 include a \$1.3 million recovery of bad debt reserves recorded in previous years.	(b)	Results for the fourth quarter of 2011 reflect a reduction in income tax expense, primarily as a result of a year-end true up related to foreign taxes.	(c)	Results for the fourth quarter of 2010 include a \$3.9 million recovery of bad debt reserves recorded in previous years.	(d)	Results for the fourth quarter of 2010 reflect a reduction in income tax expense, partially attributable to recording the full year tax effect of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 that was passed in mid-December 2010.																																																																																		
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Accounting Policies - General Information (Policies)

General Information (Policies)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011
General Information [Abstract]	do_GeneralInformationAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType na		duration	
Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements						<p><i>Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements</i></p> <p>In June 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued Accounting Standards Update, or ASU, No. 2011-05, "Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Presentation of Comprehensive Income," or ASU 2011-05, which eliminates the option to present components of other comprehensive income, or OCI, as part of the statement of changes in stockholders' equity, requires the presentation of each component of net income and each component of OCI either in a single continuous statement or in two separate but consecutive statements and also requires presentation of reclassification adjustments on the face of the financial statement. The FASB subsequently deferred the effective date of certain provisions of this standard pertaining to the reclassification of items out of accumulated other comprehensive income, pending the issuance of further guidance on the matter. The remaining portions of ASU 2011-05 are effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011; however, early adoption is permitted. The adoption of ASU 2011-05 will not have an effect on our</p>
	do_RecentlyIssuedAccountingPronouncementsPolicyTextBlock	do	xbri:stringItemType na		duration	

financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-04, "Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs," or ASU 2011-04. ASU 2011-04 clarifies existing fair value measurement and disclosure requirements, amends certain fair value measurement principles and requires additional disclosures about fair value measurements. ASU 2011-04 is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. We will incorporate any additional disclosures in our interim and annual financial statements for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2012.

+ Details

Notes Tables - General Information (Tables)

General Information (Tables)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended																															
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011																															
General Information [Abstract]	do_GeneralInformationAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration																																
Reconciliation of total interest cost to Interest expense						<table><tr><th colspan="4">For the Year Ended December 31,</th></tr><tr><th>2011</th><th>2010</th><th>2009</th><th></th></tr><tr><th colspan="4">(In thousands)</th></tr><tr><td>Total interest cost including amortization of debt issuance costs</td><td>\$ 84,349</td><td>\$ 90,698</td><td>\$ 49,610</td></tr><tr><td>Capitalized interest</td><td>(11,212)</td><td>—</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Total interest expense as reported</td><td>\$ 73,137</td><td>\$ 90,698</td><td>\$ 49,610</td></tr></table>				For the Year Ended December 31,				2011	2010	2009		(In thousands)				Total interest cost including amortization of debt issuance costs	\$ 84,349	\$ 90,698	\$ 49,610	Capitalized interest	(11,212)	—	—	Total interest expense as reported	\$ 73,137	\$ 90,698	\$ 49,610				
For the Year Ended December 31,																																					
2011	2010	2009																																			
(In thousands)																																					
Total interest cost including amortization of debt issuance costs	\$ 84,349	\$ 90,698	\$ 49,610																																		
Capitalized interest	(11,212)	—	—																																		
Total interest expense as reported	\$ 73,137	\$ 90,698	\$ 49,610																																		
Summary of cold stacked rigs evaluated for impairment						<table><tr><th colspan="4">December 31,</th></tr><tr><th>2011</th><th>2010</th><th>2009</th><th></th></tr><tr><th colspan="4">(In millions, except number of rigs)</th></tr><tr><td>Mid-Water floaters</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Jack-ups</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>8</td><td>7</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Aggregate net book value</td><td>\$ 76.5</td><td>\$ 78.0</td><td>\$ 20.2</td></tr></table>				December 31,				2011	2010	2009		(In millions, except number of rigs)				Mid-Water floaters	3	3	1	Jack-ups	5	4	3	Total	8	7	4	Aggregate net book value	\$ 76.5	\$ 78.0	\$ 20.2
December 31,																																					
2011	2010	2009																																			
(In millions, except number of rigs)																																					
Mid-Water floaters	3	3	1																																		
Jack-ups	5	4	3																																		
Total	8	7	4																																		
Aggregate net book value	\$ 76.5	\$ 78.0	\$ 20.2																																		
	us-gaap_ScheduleOfTemporaryImpairmentLossesInvestmentsTableTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration																																

+ Details

Notes Tables - Supplemental Financial Information (Tables)

Supplemental Financial Information (Tables)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended	
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	
Supplemental Financial Information [Abstract]	do_SupplementalFinancialInformationAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts						December 31, 2011 2010 (In thousands)	
						Trade receivables	\$ 555,451 \$ 633,224
						Value added tax receivables	11,615 5,003
	us-gaap_ScheduleOfAccountsNotesLoansAndFinancingReceivableTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Interest receivable	2,540 805
						Related party receivables	508 538
						Other	687 1,944
							570,801 641,514
						Allowance for bad debts	(6,867) (31,908)
						Total	\$ 563,934 \$ 609,606
Prepaid expenses and other current assets						December 31, 2011 2010 (In thousands)	
						Rig spare parts and supplies	\$ 52,637 \$ 50,288
	us-gaap_DeferredCostsCapitalizedPrepaidAndOtherAssetsDisclosureTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Deferred mobilization costs	74,659 76,868
						Prepaid insurance	12,417 9,587
						Deferred tax assets	6,800 9,557
						Deposits	1,549 827
						Prepaid taxes	37,612 20,347
						FOREX contracts	1,262 4,326
						Other	5,634 5,353
						Total	\$ 192,570 \$ 177,153
Accrued liabilities						December 31, 2011 2010 (In thousands)	
						Rig operating expenses	\$ 108,342 \$ 77,995
						Payroll and benefits	77,055 79,866
	us-gaap_ScheduleOfAccruedLiabilitiesTableTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Deferred revenue	67,894 69,825
						Accrued capital expenditures	22,725 28,947
						Interest payable	21,406 21,219
						Construction milestone payments	14,600 154,427
						Personal injury and other claims	10,536 11,758
						Other	13,842 25,153
						Total	\$ 336,400 \$ 469,190

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Notes Tables - Stock-Based Compensation (Tables)

Stock-Based Compensation (Tables)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended				
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011				
Stock-Based Compensation (Abstract)	us-gaap:DisclosureOfCompensationRelatedCostsSharebasedPaymentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration					
Weighted average assumptions used in estimating the fair value of options and SARs	do_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardFairValueAssumptionsAndMethodologyTableTextBlock do	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration		Year Ended December 31,				
						2011	2010	2009		
						Expected life of stock options/SARs (in years)	5	5	5	
						Expected volatility	30.37%	35.99%	37.24%	
						Dividend yield	.76%	.70%	.62%	
						Risk free interest rate	1.54%	1.88%	2.17%	
Summary of activity under the Stock Plan	do_SummaryOfActivityUnderStockPlanTableTextBlock	do	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration		Weighted-Average Aggregate			
							Number of Awards	Weighted-Average Exercise Price	Remaining Contractual Term (Years)	Intrinsic Value (in Thousands)
							Awards outstanding at January 1, 2011			
							821,504	\$ 89.66		
							Granted	201,200	\$ 66.59	
							Exercised	(3,376)	\$ 63.78	
							Forfeited	(9,996)	\$ 79.76	
							Expired	(11,192)	\$ 106.41	
							Awards outstanding at December 31, 2011			
							998,160	\$ 85.01	7.3	\$ 435
							Awards exercisable at December 31, 2011			
							636,920	\$ 90.53	6.5	\$ 435

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Notes Tables - Earnings Per Share (Tables)

Earnings Per Share (Tables)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011		
Earnings Per Share [Abstract] Reconciliation of the numerators and the denominators of basic and diluted per-share computations	us-gaap_EarningsPerShareAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration	Year Ended December 31, 2011 2010 2009 (In thousands, except per share data)		
						Net income – basic (numerator): Effect of dilutive potential shares Convertible debentures		
						\$ 962,542	\$ 955,457	\$ 1,376,219
						—	56	94
						Net income including conversions – diluted (numerator): \$ 962,542 \$ 955,513 \$ 1,376,313		
	us-gaap_ScheduleOfCalculationOfNumeratorAndDenominatorInEarningsPerShareTableTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Weighted-average shares – basic (denominator): Effect of dilutive potential shares Convertible debentures Stock options and stock appreciation rights		
						139,027	139,026	139,007
						—	21	51
						11	23	39
						Weighted-average shares including conversions – diluted (denominator): 139,038 139,070 139,097		
Earnings per share: Basic Diluted Securities excluded from computation of diluted earning per share						\$ 6.92	\$ 6.87	\$ 9.90
						\$ 6.92	\$ 6.87	\$ 9.89
						Year Ended December 31, 2011 2010 2009 (In thousands)		
	us-gaap_ScheduleOfAntidilutiveSecuritiesExcludedFromComputationOfEarningsPerShareTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Employee and director: Stock options Stock appreciation rights		
						19	11	8
						847	584	414

Notes Tables - Marketable Securities (Tables)

Marketable Securities (Tables)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011		
Marketable Securities [Abstract] Investments in marketable securities as available for sale	us-gaap_InvestmentsDebtAndEquitySecuritiesAbstract	us- gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration	December 31, 2011		
						Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Market Value
						(In thousands)		
						U.S. Treasury Bills/U.S. Treasury Notes (due within one year)		
						\$ 902,042	\$ (59)	\$901,983
						Mortgage- backed securities		
						394	37	431
	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesTextBlock	us- gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Total	\$ 902,436	\$ (22) \$902,414
						December 31, 2010		
						Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gain	Market Value
						(In thousands)		
						U.S. Treasury Bills (due within one year)		
						\$ 599,965	\$ 15	\$599,980
						Corporate bonds	11,200	560 11,760
						Mortgage- backed securities		
						553	53	606
						Total	\$ 611,718	\$ 628 \$612,346
Summary of proceeds from sales and maturities of marketable securities and gross realized gains and losses						Year Ended December 31,		
						2011	2010	2009
						(In thousands)		
						Proceeds from maturities		
						\$ 5,350,000	\$ 5,450,000	\$ 1,925,000
	do_SummaryOfProceedsFromSalesAndMaturitiesOfMarketableSecuritiesAndGrossRealizedGainsAndLossesTableTextBlock	do	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Proceeds from sales	12,138	230 2,548,891
						Gross realized gains	784	— 791
						Gross realized losses	(5)	(7) (172)

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Notes Tables - Derivative Financial Instruments (Tables)

Derivative Financial Instruments (Tables)	XBRL Details				12 Months Ended				
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011			
Derivative Financial Instruments (Abstract) Amounts recognized in our consolidated statements of operations related to our FOREX contracts designated as accounting hedges	us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsAndHedgingActivitiesDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xsrf:stringItemType	na	duration	Amount of Gain Recognized in Income For the Years Ended December 31,			
	do_AmountsRecognizedInOurConsolidatedStatementsOfOperationsRelatedToOurForexContractsDesignatedAsAccountingHedgesTableTextBlock	do	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Location of Gain Recognized in Income			
						2011	2010	2009	
						(In thousands)			
Amounts recognized in our Consolidated Statements of Operations related to our FOREX contracts not designated as hedging instruments	do_AmountsRecognizedInOurConsolidatedStatementsOfOperationsRelatedToOurForexContractsNotDesignatedAsHedgingInstrumentsTableTextBlock	do	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Amount of Gain Recognized in Income For the Years Ended December 31,			
						2011	2010	2009	
						(In thousands)			
						Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)			
Fair values of our derivative financial instruments	us-gaap_ScheduleOfDerivativeInstrumentsInStatementOfFinancialPositionFairValueTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Balance Sheet Location			
						December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010	December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010
						(In thousands)		(In thousands)	
						Prepaid expenses and other current assets			
Amounts recognized in our Consolidated Balance Sheets and Consolidated Statements of Operations related to our FOREX contracts designated as cash flow hedges	us-gaap_ScheduleOfDerivativeInstrumentsGainLossInStatementOfFinancialPerformanceTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Amount of (loss) gain recognized in AOCI, on derivative (effective portion)			
						2011	2010	2009	
						(In thousands)			
						Location of gain reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
						Contract drilling, excluding depreciation	Contract drilling, excluding depreciation	Contract drilling, excluding depreciation	
						Amount of gain reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
						2011	2010	2009	
						(In thousands)			
						Location of loss reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
						Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	
						Amount of loss reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
						2011	2010	2009	
						(In thousands)			
						Location of loss reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
						Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	
						Amount of loss reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
						2011	2010	2009	
						(In thousands)			
						Location of loss reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
						Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	
						Amount of loss reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
						2011	2010	2009	
						(In thousands)			
						Location of loss reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
						Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	
						Amount of loss reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
						2011	2010	2009	
						(In thousands)			
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						2011	2010	2009	
						(In thousands)			
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						Amount of loss reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
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						(In thousands)			
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						Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	
						Amount of loss reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
						2011	2010	2009	
						(In thousands)			
						Location of loss reclassified from AOCI, into income (effective portion)			
						Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	

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Notes Tables - Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures (Tables)

Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures [Abstract]	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended			
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011			
Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures [Abstract]	us-gaap_FairValueDisclosuresAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration				
Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments						Year Ended December 31,			
						2011		2010	
						Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value
						(In millions)			
						4.875% Senior Notes			
	do_LongTermDebtCarryingValuesAndFairValuesTableTextBlock do		nonnum:textBlockItemType na		duration	\$ 272.9	\$ 249.8	\$ 270.0	\$ 249.7
						5.15% Senior Notes			
						272.7	249.8	271.1	249.7
						5.70% Senior Notes			
						555.0	496.8	493.1	496.8
						5.875% Senior Notes			
						575.4	499.4	550.9	499.4
Assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis						December 31, 2011			
						Fair Value Measurements Using		Assets at Fair	
						Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Value
						(In thousands)			
						Assets:			
						Short-term investments	\$ 1,205,925	\$ —	\$ — \$ 1,205,925
						FOREX contracts	—	1,262	— 1,262
						Mortgage-backed securities	—	431	— 431
						Total assets	\$ 1,205,925	\$ 1,693	\$ — \$ 1,207,618
						Liabilities:			
						FOREX contracts	\$ —	\$ (8,454)	\$ — \$ (8,454)
	us-gaap_FairValueMeasurementInputsDisclosureTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType na		duration				
						December 31, 2010			
						Fair Value Measurements Using		Assets at Fair	
						Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Value
						(In thousands)			
						Assets:			
						Short-term investments	\$ 1,042,224	\$ —	\$ — \$ 1,042,224
						FOREX contracts	—	4,327	— 4,327
						Corporate bonds	—	11,760	— 11,760
						Mortgage-backed securities	—	606	— 606
						Total assets	\$ 1,042,224	\$ 16,693	\$ — \$ 1,058,917
						Liabilities:			
						FOREX contracts	\$ —	\$ (121)	\$ — \$ (121)

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Notes Tables - Drilling and Other Property and Equipment (Tables)

Drilling and Other Property and Equipment (Tables)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended	
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	
Drilling and Other Property and Equipment [Abstract] Summary of Cost and accumulated depreciation of drilling and other property and equipment	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
						December 31, 2011 2010 (In thousands)	
						Drilling rigs and equipment	\$ 7,431,713 \$ 7,163,196
						Construction work-in-progress	504,805 —
						Land and buildings	60,926 56,536
						Office equipment and other	49,035 44,689
						Cost	8,046,479 7,264,421
						Less accumulated depreciation	(3,379,010) (2,980,629)
						Drilling and other property and equipment, net	<u>\$ 4,667,469 \$ 4,283,792</u>

Notes Tables - Long Term Debt (Tables)

Long Term Debt (Tables)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended				
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011				
Long-Term Debt [Abstract]	us-gaap_DebtDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration					
Summary of long-term debt comprised										
	us-gaap_ScheduleOfDebtTableTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Name of Issue	Aggregate Principal Amount (In millions)	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate	Semiannual Interest Payment Dates
						5.15% Senior Notes	\$250.0	September 1, 2014	5.15%	March 1 and September 1
						4.875% Senior Notes	\$250.0	July 1, 2015	4.875%	January 1 and July 1
						5.875% Senior Notes	\$500.0	May 1, 2019	5.875%	May 1 and November 1
						5.70% Senior Notes	\$500.0	October 15, 2039	5.70%	April 15 and October 15
Long-Term Debt										
						December 31,				
						2011 2010				
						(In thousands)				
	us-gaap_ScheduleOfDebtInstrumentsTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	5.15% Senior Notes	\$ 249,811	\$ 249,745		
						4.875% Senior Notes	249,779	249,724		
						5.875% Senior Notes	499,414	499,351		
						5.70% Senior Notes	496,819	496,773		
						Total	\$ 1,495,823	\$ 1,495,593		
Aggregate maturities of long-term debt for each of the five years						(In thousands)				
	us-gaap_ScheduleOfMaturitiesOfLongTermDebtTableTextBlock	us-gaap	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	2012	\$ —	—		
						2013	—	—		
						2014	249,811	249,779		
						2015	249,779			
						2016				
						Thereafter		996,233		
						Total	\$ 1,495,823			

Notes Tables - Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (Tables)

Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (Tables)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011		
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) [Abstract] Components of other comprehensive income (loss) and associated income tax effects	us-gaap_EquityAbstract	us-gaap	xbrii:stringItemType	na	duration			
						Year Ended December 31, 2011		
						Before Tax	Tax Effect	Net-of-Tax
						(In thousands)		
						FOREX contracts:		
						Unrealized holding loss	\$ (962)	\$ 337 \$ (625)
						Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(10,351)	3,623 (6,728)
						Net unrealized loss on FOREX contracts	(11,313)	3,960 (7,353)
						Investments in marketable securities:		
						Unrealized holding loss	(61)	15 (46)
						Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(589)	205 (384)
						Net unrealized loss on marketable securities	(650)	220 (430)
						Other comprehensive loss	\$ (11,963)	\$ 4,180 \$ (7,783)
						Year Ended December 31, 2010		
						Before Tax	Tax Effect	Net-of-Tax
						(In thousands)		
						FOREX contracts:		
						Unrealized holding gain	\$ 3,591	\$ (1,257) \$ 2,334
						Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(1,790)	626 (1,164)
						Net unrealized gain on FOREX contracts	1,801	(631) 1,170
						Investments in marketable securities:		
						Unrealized holding gain	528	(185) 343
						Reclassification adjustment for loss included in net income	36	(13) 23
						Net unrealized gain on marketable securities	564	(198) 366
						Other comprehensive income	\$ 2,365	\$ (829) \$ 1,536
						Year Ended December 31, 2009		
						Before Tax	Tax Effect	Net-of-Tax
						(In thousands)		
						FOREX contracts:		
						Unrealized holding gain	\$ 9,838	\$ (3,443) \$ 6,395
						Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(7,434)	2,602 (4,832)
						Net unrealized gain on FOREX contracts	2,404	(841) 1,563
						Investments in marketable securities:		
						Unrealized holding gain	63	(22) 41
						Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	(783)	274 (509)
						Net unrealized loss on marketable securities	(720)	252 (468)
						Other comprehensive income	\$ 1,684	\$ (589) \$ 1,095
						Unrealized Gain (Loss) on		
						FOREX Contracts	Marketable Securities	Total Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)
						(In thousands)		
						Balance at January 1, 2010	\$ 1,563	\$ 42 \$ 1605
						Other comprehensive gain	1,170	366 1,536
						Balance at December 31, 2010	2,733	408 3,141
						Other comprehensive loss	(7,353)	(430) (7,783)
						Balance at December 31, 2011	\$ (4,620)	\$ (22) \$ (4,642)

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Notes Tables - Income Taxes (Tables)

Income Taxes (Tables)	XBRL Details				12 Months Ended				
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011			
Income Taxes [Abstract]	us-gaap_IncomeTaxDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration				
Components of income tax expense (benefit)						Year Ended December 31, 201120102009 (In thousands)			
						Federal – current	\$ 109,684	\$ 183,825	\$ 255,753
						State – current	264	191	131
						Foreign – current	104,640	203,459	150,804
						Total current	214,588	387,475	406,688
	do_ComponentsOfIncomeTaxExpenseBenefitTableTextBlock	do	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Federal – deferred	(1,023)	8,287	80,258
						Foreign – deferred	3,164	(15,203)	5,266
						Total deferred	2,141	(6,916)	85,524
						Total	\$ 216,729	\$ 380,559	\$ 492,212
Difference between actual income tax expense and the tax provision computed by applying the statutory federal income tax rate to income before taxes						Year Ended December 31, 201120102009 (In thousands)			
						Income before income tax expense:			
						U.S.	\$ 486,393	\$ 755,982	\$ 1,250,094
						Foreign	692,878	580,034	618,337
						Worldwide	\$ 1,179,271	\$ 1,336,016	\$ 1,868,431
						Expected income tax expense at federal statutory rate	\$ 412,745	\$ 467,606	\$ 653,951
						Foreign earnings of foreign subsidiaries (not taxed at the statutory federal income tax rate) net of related foreign taxes	(192,975)	(191,789)	(184,783)
						Foreign earnings of foreign subsidiaries for which U.S. federal income taxes have been provided	(14,681)	29,736	62,025
	do_IncomeTaxExpenseBenefitContinuingOperationsIncomeTaxReconciliationTableTextBlock	do	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Foreign taxes of domestic and foreign subsidiaries for which U.S. federal income taxes have also been provided	65,521	119,009	111,381
						Foreign tax credits	(67,232)	(89,809)	(167,756)
						Reduction of deferred tax liability related to a goodwill deduction resulting from a prior period stock acquisition	(2,950)	(8,850)	(8,850)
						Domestic production activities deduction	—	—	(6,271)
						Uncertain tax positions	(7,733)	30,950	8,003
						Amortization of deferred charges associated with intercompany rig sales to other tax jurisdictions	29,556	30,442	14,167
						Long-term capital gain on dividend distribution	—	—	2,450
						Net expense (benefit) in connection with resolutions of tax issues and adjustments relating to prior years	(6,085)	(7,346)	6,916
						Other	563	610	979
						Income tax expense	\$ 216,729	\$ 380,559	\$ 492,212
Components of deferred income tax assets and liabilities						December 31, 20112010 (In thousands)			
						Deferred tax assets:			
						Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOIs	\$ 27,212	\$ 34,824	1,049
						Goodwill	—	—	—
						Worker's compensation and other current accruals (1)	15,487	17,178	—
						Disputed receivables reserved	6	2,521	—
						Deferred compensation	4,504	7,478	—
						Foreign contribution taxes	5,615	3,100	186
						Foreign tax credits	—	—	—
						Nonqualified stock options and SARs	7,538	6,048	—
	do_ComponentsOfDeferredIncomeTaxAssetsAndLiabilitiesTableTextBlock	do	nonnum:textBlockItemType	na	duration	Other	2,212	3,133	—
						Total deferred tax assets	62,574	75,517	—

Valuation allowance for foreign tax credits	—	(186)
Valuation allowance for NOLs	(26,353)	(31,916)
Net deferred tax assets	36,221	43,415
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Depreciation	(558,915)	(558,346)
Unbilled revenue	(3,216)	(347)
Mobilization	(3,939)	(2,181)
Undistributed earnings of foreign subsidiaries	(34)	(15,023)
Other	(141)	(219)
Total deferred tax liabilities	(566,235)	(576,116)
Net deferred tax liability	\$ (530,014)	\$ (532,701)

(1) \$6.8 million and \$9.6 million reflected in "Prepaid expenses and other current assets" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. See Note 2.

Summary of changes in the valuation allowance

For the Year Ended December 31,
2011 2010 2009

(In thousands)

Valuation allowance as of January 1	\$ 32,102	\$ 30,975	\$ 29,087
Establishment of valuation allowances:			
Foreign tax credits	(186)	79	107
Net operating losses	1,844	13,381	2,025
Releases of valuation allowances in various jurisdictions	(7,407)	(12,333)	(244)
Valuation allowance as of December 31	\$ 26,353	\$ 32,102	\$ 30,975

Long term Tax Receivable Long term Tax Payable Net Liability for Uncertain Tax Positions
(In thousands)

Balance at January 1, 2009	\$ 5,534	\$ (29,231)	\$ (23,697)
Reduction based on tax positions related to a prior year	—	(4,557)	(4,557)
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	2,441	(6,781)	(4,340)
Reductions as a result of a lapse of the applicable statute of limitations	(1,504)	7,090	5,586
Balance at December 31, 2009	\$ 6,471	\$ (33,479)	\$ (27,008)
Additions based on tax positions related to a prior year	—	(15,764)	(15,764)
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	565	(3,729)	(3,164)
Balance at December 31, 2010	\$ 7,036	\$ (52,972)	\$ (45,936)
Reduction based on tax positions related to a prior year	—	1,851	1,851
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	145	(1,045)	(900)
Reductions as a result of a lapse of the applicable statute of limitations	—	3,744	3,744
Balance at December 31, 2011	\$ 7,181	\$ (48,422)	\$ (41,241)

Summary of reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits, excluding interest and penalties

us-gaap_SummaryOfValuationAllowanceTextBlock

us-gaap nonnum:textBlockItemType na duration

do_ScheduleOfReconciliationOfUnrecognizedTaxBenefitsTableTextBlock

do nonnum:textBlockItemType na duration

Tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards

us-gaap_SummaryOfOperatingLossCarryforwardsTextBlock

us-gaap nonnum:textBlockItemType na duration

Year Expiring	Tax Benefit of NOL Carryforwards (In millions)
2014	\$ 1.2
2015	4.5
2016	7.2
2017	5.8
2018	—
2019	—
2020	0.2
2021	0.1
Total	\$ 19.0

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Notes Tables - Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Tables)

Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Tables)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended			
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011			
Segments and Geographic Area Analysis [Abstract] Revenues from contract drilling services by equipment-type	us-gaap_SegmentReportingAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItem	na	duration				
						Year Ended December 31, 2011 2010 2009 (In thousands)			
						Flosters:			
						Ultra-Deepwater	\$ 841,565	\$ 718,426	\$ 746,030
						Deepwater	733,037	564,315	525,877
						Mid-Water	1,482,032	1,678,793	1,807,428
						Total Flosters	3,056,634	2,961,534	3,079,335
						Jack-ups	197,534	267,983	457,224
						Other	145	219	—
						Total contract drilling revenues	3,254,313	3,229,736	3,536,579
						Revenues related to reimbursable expenses	68,106	93,238	94,705
						Total revenues	\$ 3,322,419	\$ 3,322,974	\$ 3,631,284
Revenues by geographic area presented by attributing revenues to individual country						Year Ended December 31, 2011 2010 2009 (In thousands)			
						United States	\$ 323,381	\$ 635,545	\$ 1,232,940
						International:			
						South America	1,736,798	1,308,641	716,448
						Australia/Asia	451,364	641,372	717,658
						Europe/Africa/Mediterranean	749,128	601,122	641,180
						Mexico	61,748	136,294	323,058
						Total revenues	\$3,322,419	\$3,322,974	\$3,631,284
Individual countries that comprised 5% or more of our total contract drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers						Year Ended December 31, 2011 2010 2009			
						Brazil	49.4%	36.8%	18.2%
						Angola	9.6%	6.1%	1.8%
						Australia	6.7%	10.0%	10.8%
						Indonesia	5.0%	1.3%	1.2%
						United Kingdom	4.6%	5.6%	6.7%
						Mexico	1.9%	4.1%	8.9%
Long-lived tangible assets by geographic location						December 31, 2011 2010 2009 (In thousands)			
						Drilling and other property and equipment, net:			
						United States	\$ 283,049	\$ 638,529	\$ 2,176,993
						International:			
						South America	1,979,303	2,290,412	874,644
						Australia/Asia/Middle East	1,212,461	417,121	1,015,273
						Europe/Africa/Mediterranean	852,300	897,998	262,037
						Mexico	340,356	39,732	103,105
						Total	\$ 4,667,469	\$ 4,283,792	\$ 4,437,052
						(i) Long-lived tangible assets in the Australia/Asia/Middle East region as of December 31, 2011 include \$490.2 million in construction work-in-progress for three drillships under construction in South Korea.			
Countries where parent company had material concentration of operating assets						December 31, 2011 2010 2009			
						Brazil	41.9%	52.7%	19.7%
						South Korea	10.5%	—	—
						Angola	8.0%	1.7%	1.9%
						Mexico	7.3%	0.9%	2.3%
						Vietnam	6.6%	0.6%	0.6%
						United States	6.1%	14.9%	49.1%
						Egypt	5.5%	6.3%	0.9%
						Republic of Congo	—	9.3%	—
						Singapore	—	1.9%	11.5%
						(ii) Assets in South Korea, as of December 31, 2011, include \$490.2 million in construction work-in-progress for our three drillships under construction.			
Revenues from major customers that contributed more than 10% of total revenues						Year Ended December 31, 2011 2010 2009			
						Customer			
						Petroleo Brasileiro S.A.	35.0%	23.7%	15.0%
						CGX Petroleo e Gas Ltda.	14.1%	14.1%	1.4%

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Notes Details - General Information (Details)

General Information (Details) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Reconciliation of total interest cost to interest expense	do_ReconciliationOfAggregateInterestCostToInterestExpenseAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Total interest cost including amortization of debt issuance costs	us-gaap_InterestCostsIncurred	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 84,349	\$ 90,698	\$ 49,610
Capitalized interest	us-gaap_InterestCostsCapitalized	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(11,212)		
Total interest expense as reported	do_InterestExpenseNonOperating	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 73,137	\$ 90,698	\$ 49,610

+ Details

Notes Details - General Information (Details 1)

General Information (Details 1) (USD \$) In Millions, unless otherwise specified	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011 Y Rigs ft Bond Drillship Country	Dec. 31, 2010 Rigs	Dec. 31, 2009 Rigs
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type			
Summary of cold stacked rigs evaluated for impairment	do_SummaryOfColdStackedRigsEvaluatedForImpairmentAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Total number of cold stacked rigs	do_NumberOfColdStackedRigs	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	instant	8	7	4
Aggregate net book value	do_NetBookValueOfColdStackedRigs	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 76.5	\$ 78.0	\$ 20.2
Mild-Water floaters [Member]			na					
Summary of cold stacked rigs evaluated for impairment	do_SummaryOfColdStackedRigsEvaluatedForImpairmentAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Total number of cold stacked rigs	do_NumberOfColdStackedRigs	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	instant	3	3	1
Jack-ups [Member]			na					
Summary of cold stacked rigs evaluated for impairment	do_SummaryOfColdStackedRigsEvaluatedForImpairmentAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Total number of cold stacked rigs	do_NumberOfColdStackedRigs	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	instant	5	4	3

+ Details

Notes Details - General Information (Details Textual)

General Information (Details Textual) (USD \$)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended			
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011 Bond Lawsuit Rigs Contract Well Drilling Installment Y ft Country	Dec. 31, 2010 Y Installment Rigs	Dec. 31, 2009 Y Rigs	Feb. 16, 2012
Property, Plant and Equipment [Line Items]	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentLineItems	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration				
Current fleet of 49 offshore rigs consisting of 32 semisubmersibles, 13 jack-ups and four drillships	do_NumberOfOffshoreRigs	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	duration 49				
General Information (Textual) [Abstract]	do_GeneralInformationTextualAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration				
Outstanding common stock owned by Loews Corporation	do_MajorityShareholderOutstandingCommonStockOwnedPercentage	do	num:percentItemType	na	instant				50.40%
Period considered to treat short-term, highly liquid investments as cash equivalents	do_PeriodConsideredToTreatShortTermHighlyLiquidInvestmentsAsCashEquivalents	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration Three months or less				
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash balances held in foreign currencies	us-gaap_EffectOfExchangeRateOnCashAndCashEquivalents	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Initial term of contracts minimum months	do_InitialTermOfContractsMinimumMonths	do	xbri:durationItemType	na	duration 2 months				
Initial term of contracts maximum months	do_InitialTermOfContractsMaximumMonths	do	xbri:durationItemType	na	duration 60 months				
Sum and probability of occurrence scenarios	do_SumAndProbabilityOfOccurrenceScenarios	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration 100.00%				
Reduction in assumed dayrates for the cold-stacked rigs	do_ReductionInAssumedDayratesForColdStackedRigs	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration 5.00%				
Number of rigs not subject to impairment	do_NumberOfRigsNotSubjectToImpairment	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	instant 8	7	4		
Number of new drillships	do_NumberOfNewDrillships	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	duration 3				
Gain (loss) on foreign currency transactions recognized in income	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyTransactionGainLossRealized	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration (8,600,000)	1,400,000	11,500,000		
Qualifying expenditure	do_QualifyingExpensesForInterestCapitalization	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	0	0		
Amount capitalized for asset replacements and betterments	do_AmountCapitalizedForAssetReplacementsAndBetterments	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration 269,500,000	379,800,000			
Range of asset project costs, lower limit	do_RangeOfAssetProjectCostsLowerLimit	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration 25,000	25,000			
Range of asset project costs, upper limit	do_RangeOfAssetProjectCostsUpperLimit	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration \$ 50,000,000	\$ 50,000,000			
Estimated useful life for Drilling rigs and equipments, Minimum	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentUsefulLifeMinimum	us-gaap	xbri:decimalItemType	na	duration 3				
Estimated useful life for Drilling rigs and equipments, Maximum	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentUsefulLifeMaximum	us-gaap	xbri:decimalItemType	na	duration 30				
Semisubmersibles [Member]			na						
Property, Plant and Equipment [Line Items]	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentLineItems	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration				
Current fleet of 49 offshore rigs consisting of 32 semisubmersibles, 13 jack-ups and four drillships	do_NumberOfOffshoreRigs	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	duration 32				
Jack-ups [Member]			na						
Property, Plant and Equipment [Line Items]	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentLineItems	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration				
Current fleet of 49 offshore rigs consisting of 32 semisubmersibles, 13 jack-ups and four drillships	do_NumberOfOffshoreRigs	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	duration 13				
Drillship [Member]									
Property, Plant and Equipment [Line Items]	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentLineItems	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration				
Current fleet of 49 offshore rigs consisting of 32 semisubmersibles, 13 jack-ups and four drillships	do_NumberOfOffshoreRigs	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	duration 4				
Number of rigs under construction	do_NumberOfRigsUnderConstruction	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	duration 3				

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Notes Details - Supplemental Financial Information (Details)

Supplemental Financial Information (Details) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		
Accounts receivable, net of provision for bad debts	us-gaap_ReceivablesNetCurrentAbstract	us- gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Trade receivables	us-gaap_AccountsReceivableGrossCurrent	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 555,451	\$ 633,224
Value added tax receivables	us-gaap_ValueAddedTaxReceivableCurrent	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	11,615	5,003
Interest Receivable	us-gaap_ReceivablesLongTermContractsOrPrograms	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	2,540	805
Related party receivables	us-gaap_DueFromRelatedPartiesCurrent	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	508	538
Other	us-gaap_OtherReceivablesGrossCurrent	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	687	1,944
Receivables gross current	do_ReceivablesGrossCurrent	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	570,801	641,514
Allowance for bad debts	us-gaap_AllowanceForDoubtfulAccountsReceivableCurrent	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(6,867)	(31,908)
Total	us-gaap_ReceivablesNetCurrent	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 563,934	\$ 609,606

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Notes Details - Supplemental Financial Information (Details 1)

Supplemental Financial Information (Details 1) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	do_PrepaidExpensesAndOtherCurrentAssetsAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Rig spare parts and supplies	do_RigSparePartsAndSupplies	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 52,637	\$ 50,288
Deferred mobilization costs	us-gaap_OtherDeferredCostsNet	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	74,659	76,868
Prepaid insurance	us-gaap_PrepaidInsurance	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	12,417	9,587
Deferred tax assets	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsNetCurrent	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	6,800	9,557
Deposits	us-gaap_DepositsAssetsCurrent	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	1,549	827
Prepaid taxes	us-gaap_PrepaidTaxes	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	37,612	20,347
FOREX contracts	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyCashFlowHedgeAssetAtFairValue	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	1,262	4,326
Other	us-gaap_OtherAssetsCurrent	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	5,634	5,353
Total	us-gaap_PrepaidExpenseAndOtherAssetsCurrent	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 192,570	\$ 177,153

+ Details

Notes Details - Supplemental Financial Information (Details 2)

Supplemental Financial Information (Details 2) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		
Accrued Liabilities	us-gaap_AccruedLiabilitiesCurrentAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Rig operating expenses	do_RigOperatingExpenses	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 108,342	\$ 77,995
Payroll and benefits	us-gaap_EmployeeRelatedLiabilitiesCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	77,055	79,866
Deferred revenue	us-gaap_DeferredRevenueCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	67,894	69,825
Accrued capital expenditure	do_AccruedCapitalProjectOrUpgradeCosts	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	22,725	28,947
Interest payable	us-gaap_InterestPayableCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	21,406	21,219
Construction milestone payments	do_AccruedDrillshipConstructionInstallment	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	14,600	154,427
Personal injury and other claims	us-gaap_WorkersCompensationLiabilityCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	10,536	11,758
Other	us-gaap_OtherAccruedLiabilitiesCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	13,842	25,153
Total	us-gaap_OtherLiabilitiesCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 336,400	\$ 469,190

+ Details

Notes Details - Supplemental Financial Information (Details Textual)

Supplemental Financial Information (Details Textual) (USD \$)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Income Tax Examination [Line Items]	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Bad debt (recovery) expense	us-gaap_ProvisionForDoubtfulAccounts	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ (6,713,000)	\$ (9,789,000)	\$ 9,746,000
Amount of bad debts recorded in prior periods and subsequently recovered	do_ReserveForBadDebtsRecoveredRecordedInPriorPeriod	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	12,300,000	9,700,000	900,000
Supplemental financial information (Textual) [Abstract]	do_SupplementalFinancialInformationTextualAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Amount of bad debts reserved for and recovered in the current year	do_AmountOfBadDebtsReservedForInCurrentYear	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	200,000		
Interest paid on long-term debt	us-gaap_InterestExpenseLongTermDebt	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	82,900,000	83,500,000	39,500,000
Construction milestone payments	us-gaap_RecordedUnconditionalPurchaseObligationDueWithinOneYear	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	14,600,000	154,400,000	
Interest on Internal Revenue Service Assessment	do_InterestOnInternalRevenueServiceAssessment	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration		900,000	
Unpaid accrued capital expenditures	us-gaap_CapitalExpendituresIncurredButNotYetPaid	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	37,300,000	28,900,000	
Cash payments of capital expenditures accrued in the prior year	do_CashPaymentsOfCapitalExpendituresAccruedInPriorYear	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	28,900,000	64,900,000	59,400,000
Income tax benefits related to employee stock plan exercises	us-gaap_TaxBenefitFromStockOptionsExercised	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration			1,000,000
Domestic Country [Member]			na					
Income Tax Examination [Line Items]	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Income taxes paid	us-gaap_IncomeTaxesPaid	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	94,800,000	427,500,000	252,400,000
Foreign Country [Member]			na					
Income Tax Examination [Line Items]	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Income taxes paid, net	us-gaap_IncomeTaxesPaidNet	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	150,500,000	128,500,000	176,200,000
State and Local Jurisdiction [Member]			na					
Income Tax Examination [Line Items]	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Income taxes paid, net	us-gaap_IncomeTaxesPaidNet	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	200,000	100,000	200,000
Egypt Customers Current [Member]			na					
Income Tax Examination [Line Items]	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Bad debt (recovery) expense	us-gaap_ProvisionForDoubtfulAccounts	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	5,700,000	0	10,700,000
Egypt Customer Previous [Member]			na					
Income Tax Examination [Line Items]	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Amount of bad debts recorded in prior periods and subsequently recovered	do_ReserveForBadDebtsRecoveredRecordedInPriorPeriod	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	3,700,000	5,500,000	
North Sea Customer [Member]			na					
Income Tax Examination [Line Items]	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Amount of bad debts recorded in prior periods and subsequently recovered	do_ReserveForBadDebtsRecoveredRecordedInPriorPeriod	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	8,400,000	4,200,000	
Amount of trade accounts receivable written off against allowance for doubtful accounts	do_AmountOfTradeAccountsReceivableWrittenOffAgainstAllowanceForDoubtfulAccounts	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 18,400,000		

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Notes Details - Stock-Based Compensation (Details)

Stock-Based Compensation (Details)	XBRL Details		12 Months Ended					
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011 Bond Lawsuit Rise Contract Wall Drillship Installment Y	Dec. 31, 2010 Y Installment	Dec. 31, 2009 Y
Weighted average assumptions used in estimating the fair value of options and SARs	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardFairValueAssumptionsAndMethodologyAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Expected life of stock options/SARs (in years)	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardFairValueAssumptionsExpectedTerm	us-gaap	xbri:decimalItemType	na	duration	5	5	5
Expected volatility	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardFairValueAssumptionsExpectedVolatilityRate	us-gaap	num:percentItemType	na	duration	30.37%	35.99%	37.24%
Dividend yield	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardFairValueAssumptionsExpectedDividendRate	us-gaap	num:percentItemType	na	duration	0.76%	0.70%	0.62%
Risk free interest rate	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardFairValueAssumptionsRiskFreeInterestRate	us-gaap	num:percentItemType	na	duration	1.54%	1.88%	2.17%

Notes Details - Stock-Based Compensation (Details 1)

Stock-Based Compensation (Details 1) (USD \$) In Thousands, except Share data, unless otherwise specified	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended Dec. 31, 2011 Bond Lawsuit Rigs Contract Well Drillship Installment Y ft Country
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	
Summary of activity under the Stock Plan	do_SummaryOfActivityUnderStockPlanAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration	
Number of Awards Outstanding, Beginning Balance	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsOutstandingNumber	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	instant	821,524
Weighted-Average Exercise Price Outstanding, Beginning Balance	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsOutstandingWeightedAverageExercisePrice	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	instant	\$ 89.66
Number of awards, granted	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsGrantsInPeriod	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	duration	201,200
Weighted-Average Exercise Price, granted	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsGrantsInPeriodWeightedAverageExercisePrice	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	instant	\$ 66.59
Number of Awards, exercised	us-gaap_StockIssuedDuringPeriodSharesStockOptionsExercised	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	duration	(3,376)
Weighted-Average Exercise Price, exercised	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsExercisesInPeriodWeightedAverageExercisePrice	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	instant	\$ 63.78
Number of Awards, forfeited	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsForfeituresInPeriod	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	duration	(9,996)
Weighted-Average Exercise Price, forfeited	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsForfeituresInPeriodWeightedAverageExercisePrice	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	instant	\$ 79.76
Number of Awards, expired	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsExpirationsInPeriod	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	duration	(11,192)
Weighted-Average Exercise Price, expired	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsExpirationsInPeriodWeightedAverageExercisePrice	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	instant	\$ 106.41
Number of Awards, Outstanding, Ending Balance	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsOutstandingNumber	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	instant	998,160
Weighted-Average Exercise Price Outstanding, Ending Balance	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsOutstandingWeightedAverageExercisePrice	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	instant	\$ 85.01
Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Term, Ending Balance	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsOutstandingWeightedAverageRemainingContractualTerm1	us-gaap	xbri:decimalItemType	na	instant	7.3
Aggregate Intrinsic Value, Ending Balance	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsOutstandingIntrinsicValue	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 435
Number of Awards, exercisable	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsExercisableNumber	us-gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	instant	636,920
Weighted-Average Exercise Price Outstanding, exercisable	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsExercisableWeightedAverageExercisePrice	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	instant	\$ 90.53
Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Term, exercisable	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsExercisableWeightedAverageRemainingContractualTerm	us-gaap	xbri:decimalItemType	na	duration	6.5
Aggregate Intrinsic Value, exercisable	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsExercisableIntrinsicValue1	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 435

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Notes Details - Stock-Based Compensation (Details Textual)

Stock-Based Compensation (Details Textual) (USD \$)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011 Bond Lawsuit Rigs Contract Well Drillship Installment Y ft Country	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Stock-Based Compensation (Textual) [Abstract]	do_StockBasedCompensationTextualAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Maximum aggregate number of shares of common stock for which stock options or SARs granted	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardNumberOfSharesAuthorized	us- gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	instant	1,500,000		
Vesting period (in years, ratably over period)	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardAwardVestingPeriod	us- gaap	us- types:durationStringItemType	na	duration	four years		
Expiration (in years)	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardAwardExpirationDating	us- gaap	us-types:dateStringItemType	na	duration	ten years		
Compensation cost recognized for Stock Plan transactions	us-gaap_AllocatedShareBasedCompensationExpense	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 6,500,000
Tax benefits recognized	us-gaap_EmployeeServiceShareBasedCompensationTaxBenefitFromCompensationExpense	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	1,700,000	2,000,000	2,100,000
Weighted-average grant date fair values of awards granted	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsGrantsInPeriodWeightedAverageGrantDateFairValue	us- gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	duration	\$ 18.17	\$ 23.62	\$ 28.46
Intrinsic value of awards exercised	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardOptionsExercisesInPeriodTotalIntrinsicValue	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	28,000	8,000	1,500,000
Fair value of awards vested	us-gaap_ShareBasedCompensationArrangementByShareBasedPaymentAwardEquityInstrumentsOtherThanOptionsVestedInPeriodTotalFairValue	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	5,400,000	6,600,000	6,600,000
Unrecognized compensation cost related to nonvested stock options and SARs granted under the Stock Plan	us-gaap_EmployeeServiceShareBasedCompensationNonvestedAwardsTotalCompensationCostNotYetRecognized	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 5,800,000		
Expected weighted average period to recognize the compensation cost related to nonvested stock options and SARs granted under the Stock Plan	us-gaap_EmployeeServiceShareBasedCompensationNonvestedAwardsTotalCompensationCostNotYetRecognizedPeriodForRecognition	us- gaap	xbri:decimalItemType	na	duration	2.3		

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Notes Details - Earnings Per Share (Details)

Earnings Per Share (Details) (USD \$) In Thousands, except Per Share data	XBRL Details						3 Months Ended									12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		Dec. 31, 2011	Sep. 30, 2011	Jun. 30, 2011	Mar. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Sep. 30, 2010	Jun. 30, 2010	Mar. 31, 2010		Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Reconciliation of the numerators and the denominators of basic and diluted per-share computations	us-gaap_EarningsPerShareReconciliationAbstract	us- gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration													
Net income - basic (numerator):	us-gaap_NetIncomeLoss	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration		\$ 188,490	\$ 256,854	\$ 266,586	\$ 250,612	\$ 241,687	\$ 198,524	\$ 224,393	\$ 290,853		\$ 962,542	\$ 955,457	\$ 1,376,219
Effect of dilutive potential shares	us-gaap_DilutiveSecuritiesAbstract	us- gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration													
Convertible debentures	us-gaap_InterestOnConvertibleDebtNetOfTax	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration											56	94	
Net income including conversions - diluted (numerator):	us-gaap_NetIncomeLossAvailableToCommonStockholdersDiluted	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration											\$ 962,542	\$ 955,513	\$ 1,376,313
Weighted-average shares - basic (denominator):	us-gaap_WeightedAverageNumberOfSharesOutstandingBasic	us- gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	duration											139,027	139,026	139,007
Effect of dilutive potential shares	us-gaap_WeightedAverageNumberDilutedSharesOutstandingAdjustmentAbstract	us- gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration													
Convertible debentures	us-gaap_IncrementalCommonSharesAttributableToConversionOfDebtSecurities	us- gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	duration											21	51	
Stock options and stock appreciation rights	us-gaap_IncrementalCommonSharesAttributableToShareBasedPaymentArrangements	us- gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	duration											11	23	39
Weighted-average shares including conversions - diluted (denominator)	us-gaap_WeightedAverageNumberOfDilutedSharesOutstanding	us- gaap	xbri:sharesItemType	na	duration											139,038	139,070	139,097
Earnings per share:	us-gaap_EarningsPerShareBasicAndDilutedAbstract	us- gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration													
Basic	us-gaap_EarningsPerShareBasic	us- gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	duration	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.74	\$ 1.43	\$ 1.61	\$ 2.09			\$ 6.92	\$ 6.87	\$ 9.90
Diluted	us-gaap_EarningsPerShareDiluted	us- gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	duration	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.74	\$ 1.43	\$ 1.61	\$ 2.09			\$ 6.92	\$ 6.87	\$ 9.89

Notes Details - Earnings Per Share (Details 1)

Earnings Per Share (Details 1) In Thousands	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Stock options [Member]			na					
Securities excluded from computation of diluted earning per share	us-gaap_EarningsPerShareDilutedOtherDisclosuresAbstract	us-gaap	xbri: stringItemType	na	duration			
Securities excluded from computation of diluted earning per share	us-gaap_AntidilutiveSecuritiesExcludedFromComputationOfEarningsPerShareAmount	us-gaap	xbri: sharesItemType	na	duration	19	11	8
Stock appreciation rights [Member]			na					
Securities excluded from computation of diluted earning per share	us-gaap_EarningsPerShareDilutedOtherDisclosuresAbstract	us-gaap	xbri: stringItemType	na	duration			
Securities excluded from computation of diluted earning per share	us-gaap_AntidilutiveSecuritiesExcludedFromComputationOfEarningsPerShareAmount	us-gaap	xbri: sharesItemType	na	duration	847	584	414

+ References+ Details

Notes Details - Marketable Securities (Details)

Marketable Securities (Details) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		
Investments in marketable securities as available for sale	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Amortized Cost	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesAmortizedCost	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 902,436	\$ 611,718
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesGrossUnrealizedGainLoss	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	(22)	628
Market Value	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesDebtSecuritiesCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	902,414	612,346
U.S. Treasury Bills/U.S Treasury Notes (due within one year) [Member]			na				
Investments in marketable securities as available for sale	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Amortized Cost	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesAmortizedCost	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	902,042	
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesGrossUnrealizedGainLoss	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	(59)	
Market Value	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesDebtSecuritiesCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	901,983	
U.S. Treasury Bills (due within one year) [Member]			na				
Investments in marketable securities as available for sale	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Amortized Cost	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesAmortizedCost	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		599,965
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesGrossUnrealizedGainLoss	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		15
Market Value	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesDebtSecuritiesCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		599,980
Mortgage-backed Securities [Member]			na				
Investments in marketable securities as available for sale	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Amortized Cost	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesAmortizedCost	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	394	553
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesGrossUnrealizedGainLoss	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	37	53
Market Value	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesDebtSecuritiesCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	431	606
Corporate bonds [Member]			na				
Investments in marketable securities as available for sale	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Amortized Cost	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesAmortizedCost	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		11,200
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesGrossUnrealizedGainLoss	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		560
Market Value	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesDebtSecuritiesCurrent	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		\$ 11,760

Notes Details - Marketable Securities (Details 1)

Marketable Securities (Details 1) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details				12 Months Ended			
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Summary of proceeds from sales and maturities of marketable securities and gross realized gains and losses	do_ProceedsFromSalesAndMaturitiesOfMarketableSecuritiesAndGrossRealizedGainsAndLossesAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Proceeds from maturities	us-gaap_ProceedsFromMaturitiesPrepaymentsAndCallsOfAvailableForSaleSecurities	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 5,350,000	\$ 5,450,000	\$ 1,925,000
Proceeds from sales	us-gaap_ProceedsFromSaleOfAvailableForSaleSecurities	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	12,138	230	2,548,891
Gross realized gains	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesGrossRealizedGains	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	784		791
Gross realized losses	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesGrossRealizedLosses	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ (5)	\$ (7)	\$ (172)

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Notes Details - Derivative Financial Instruments (Details)

Derivative Financial Instruments (Details) (FOREX contracts [Member], USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Derivative designated as accounting hedges [Member]		na						
Derivative Instruments, Gain (Loss) Recognized in Other Comprehensive Income, Effective Portion, Net	us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsGainLossRecognizedInOtherComprehensiveIncomeEffectivePortionNetAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Amount of gain (loss) recognized in AOGL on derivative (effective portion)	us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsGainLossRecognizedInOtherComprehensiveIncomeEffectivePortionNet	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	\$ (962)	\$ 3,591	\$ 9,838
Derivative designated as accounting hedges [Member] Contract drilling, excluding depreciation [Member]		na						
Derivative Instruments, Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated OCI into Income, Effective Portion, Net	us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsGainLossReclassifiedFromAccumulatedOCIIntoIncomeEffectivePortionNetAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Amount of gain (loss) recognized in AOGL on derivative (effective portion)	us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsGainLossReclassifiedFromAccumulatedOCIIntoIncomeEffectivePortionNet	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	10,351	1,790	7,434
Derivative designated as accounting hedges [Member] Foreign currency transaction gain (loss) [Member]		na						
Derivative Instruments, Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income, Ineffective Portion and Amount Excluded From Effectiveness Testing, Net	us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsGainLossRecognizedInIncomeIneffectivePortionAndAmountExcludedFromEffectivenessTestingNetAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Amount of Loss Recognized in Income on Derivative (Ineffective Portion and Amount Excluded from Effectiveness Testing)	us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsLossRecognizedInIncomeIneffectivePortionAndAmountExcludedFromEffectivenessTesting	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration (85)			
Designated as Hedging Instrument [Member] Contract drilling, excluding depreciation [Member]		na						
Derivative Instruments, Gain Recognized in Income, Net	us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsGainLossRecognizedInIncomeNetAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Amount of Gain Recognized in Income	us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsGainRecognizedInIncome	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	7,206	3,307	8,895
Not designated as hedging instruments [Member] Foreign currency transaction gain (loss) [Member]		na						
Derivative Instruments, Gain Recognized in Income, Net	us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsGainLossRecognizedInIncomeNetAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	us-gaap_DerivativeInstrumentsGainLossRecognizedInIncomeNet	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 8,856

+ References + Details

Notes Details - Derivative Financial Instruments (Details 1)

Derivative Financial Instruments (Details 1) (FOREX contracts [Member], USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		
Prepaid expenses and other current assets [Member]			na				
Derivative Asset, Fair Value, Net [Abstract]	us-gaap_DerivativeAssetFairValueNetAbstract	us- gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Derivative assets designated as hedging instruments, current	us-gaap_CashFlowHedgeDerivativeInstrumentAssetsAtFairValue	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 1,262	\$ 4,326
Accrued liabilities [Member]			na				
Derivative Liability, Fair Value, Net [Abstract]	us-gaap_DerivativeLiabilityFairValueNetAbstract	us- gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Derivative liabilities designated as hedging instruments, current	us-gaap_CashFlowHedgeDerivativeInstrumentLiabilitiesAtFairValue	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ (8,454)	\$ (121)

+ References+ Details

Notes Details - Derivative Financial Instruments (Details Textual)

Derivative Financial Instruments (Details Textual) In Millions	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended							
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011 USD (\$)	Dec. 31, 2010 USD (\$)	Dec. 31, 2009 USD (\$)	Dec. 31, 2011 NOK	Dec. 31, 2011 MXN	Dec. 31, 2011 BRL	Dec. 31, 2011 AUD	Dec. 31, 2011 GBP (£)
Foreign Currency Accounting Hedges	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyCashFlowHedgesAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration								
Notional amount of foreign currency contracts settled	do_NotionalAmountOfForeignCurrencyContractsSettled	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 318.9	\$ 332.5	\$ 333.4					
Notional amount of foreign currency contracts settled designated as hedging instruments	do_NotionalAmountOfForeignCurrencyContractsSettledDesignatedAsHedgingInstruments	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	318.9	332.5	112.8					
Notional amount of foreign currency contracts not designated as accounting hedges settled	do_NotionalAmountOfForeignCurrencyContractsNotDesignatedAsHedgesSettled	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	0	0						
Unrealized gain (loss) on foreign currency derivative financial instruments	do_NetUnrealizedGainsLosses	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration			37.3					
FOREX contracts outstanding in the aggregate notional amount	us-gaap_NotionalAmountOfForeignCurrencyCashFlowHedgeDerivatives	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	154.3			11.5	14.1	81.6	21.9	25.2
Reclassification unrealized gain (loss) associated with FOREX contracts	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyCashFlowHedgeGainLossToBeReclassifiedDuringNext12Months	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 7.1							

+ Details

Notes Details - Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures (Details)

Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures (Details) (USD \$)	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		
5.15% Senior Notes [Member]		na					
Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments	do_FairValuesAndRelatedCarryingValuesOfOurDebtInstrumentsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Senior notes	us-gaap_SeniorNotes	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 249,811,000	\$ 249,745,000
Interest rate of senior notes	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentInterestRateStatedPercentage	us-gaap	num:percentItemType	na	instant	5.15%	
5% Senior Notes [Member] Carrying Value [Member]		na					
Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments	do_FairValuesAndRelatedCarryingValuesOfOurDebtInstrumentsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Senior notes	us-gaap_SeniorNotes	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	249,800,000	249,700,000
5.15% Senior Notes [Member] Fair Value [Member]		na					
Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments	do_FairValuesAndRelatedCarryingValuesOfOurDebtInstrumentsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Debt Instrument, Fair Value	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentFairValue	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	272,700,000	271,100,000
4.875% Senior Notes [Member]		na					
Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments	do_FairValuesAndRelatedCarryingValuesOfOurDebtInstrumentsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Senior notes	us-gaap_SeniorNotes	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	249,779,000	249,724,000
Interest rate of senior notes	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentInterestRateStatedPercentage	us-gaap	num:percentItemType	na	instant	4.875%	
4.875% Senior Notes [Member] Carrying Value [Member]		na					
Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments	do_FairValuesAndRelatedCarryingValuesOfOurDebtInstrumentsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Senior notes	us-gaap_SeniorNotes	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	249,800,000	249,700,000
4.875% Senior Notes [Member] Fair Value [Member]		na					
Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments	do_FairValuesAndRelatedCarryingValuesOfOurDebtInstrumentsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Debt Instrument, Fair Value	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentFairValue	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	272,900,000	270,000,000
875% Senior Notes [Member]		na					
Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments	do_FairValuesAndRelatedCarryingValuesOfOurDebtInstrumentsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Senior notes	us-gaap_SeniorNotes	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	499,414,000	499,351,000
Interest rate of senior notes	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentInterestRateStatedPercentage	us-gaap	num:percentItemType	na	instant	5.875%	
5.875% Senior Notes [Member] Carrying Value [Member]		na					
Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments	do_FairValuesAndRelatedCarryingValuesOfOurDebtInstrumentsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Senior notes	us-gaap_SeniorNotes	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	499,400,000	499,400,000
5.875% Senior Notes [Member] Fair Value [Member]		na					
Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments	do_FairValuesAndRelatedCarryingValuesOfOurDebtInstrumentsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Debt Instrument, Fair Value	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentFairValue	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	575,400,000	550,900,000
5.70% Senior Notes [Member]		na					
Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments	do_FairValuesAndRelatedCarryingValuesOfOurDebtInstrumentsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Senior notes	us-gaap_SeniorNotes	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	496,819,000	496,773,000
Interest rate of senior notes	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentInterestRateStatedPercentage	us-gaap	num:percentItemType	na	instant	5.70%	
5.70% Senior Notes [Member] Carrying Value [Member]		na					
Fair values and related carrying values of our debt instruments	do_FairValuesAndRelatedCarryingValuesOfOurDebtInstrumentsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Senior notes	us-gaap_SeniorNotes	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	496,800,000	496,800,000
5.70% Senior Notes [Member] Fair Value [Member]		na					
Fair values and related							

carrying values of our debt instruments	do_FairValuesAndRelatedCarryingValuesOfOurDebtInstrumentsAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration				
Debt Instrument, Fair Value	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentFairValue	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$	\$	555,000,000	493,100,000

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Notes Details - Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures (Details 1)

Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures (Details 1) (Fair Value Measurements [Member], USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		
Assets:	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
FOREX contracts	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyContractAssetFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 1,262	\$ 4,327
Mortgage-backed securities	us-gaap_MortgageBackedSecuritiesAvailableForSaleFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	431	606
Total assets	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	1,207,618	1,058,917
Liabilities:	us-gaap_LiabilitiesFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
FOREX contracts	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyContractsLiabilityFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(8,454)	(121)
el 1 [Member]			na				
Assets:	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
FOREX contracts	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyContractAssetFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	0	0
Mortgage-backed securities	us-gaap_MortgageBackedSecuritiesAvailableForSaleFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	0	0
Total assets	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	1,205,925	1,042,224
Liabilities:	us-gaap_LiabilitiesFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
FOREX contracts	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyContractsLiabilityFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	0	0
Level 1 [Member] Short-term investments [Member]			na				
Assets:	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Short-term investments	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	1,205,925	1,042,224
Level 1 [Member] Corporate bonds [Member]			na				
Assets:	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Short-term investments	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		0
Level 2 [Member]			na				
Assets:	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
FOREX contracts	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyContractAssetFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	1,262	4,327
Mortgage-backed securities	us-gaap_MortgageBackedSecuritiesAvailableForSaleFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	431	606
Total assets	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	1,693	16,693
Liabilities:	us-gaap_LiabilitiesFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
FOREX contracts	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyContractsLiabilityFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(8,454)	(121)
Level 2 [Member] Short-term investments [Member]			na				
Assets:	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Short-term investments	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	0	0
Level 2 [Member] Corporate bonds [Member]			na				
Assets:	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Short-term investments	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		11,760
Level 3 [Member]			na				
Assets:	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
FOREX contracts	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyContractAssetFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	0	0
Mortgage-backed securities	us-gaap_MortgageBackedSecuritiesAvailableForSaleFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	0	0
Total assets	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	0	0
Liabilities:	us-gaap_LiabilitiesFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
FOREX contracts	us-gaap_ForeignCurrencyContractsLiabilityFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	0	0
Level 3 [Member] Short-term investments [Member]			na				
Assets:	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		

Short-term investments	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbrii:monetaryItemType debit	instant	0	0
Level 3 [Member] Corporate bonds [Member]			na			
Assets:	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbrii:stringItemType	na	duration	
Short-term investments	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbrii:monetaryItemType debit	instant		0
Short-term investments [Member]			na			
Assets:	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbrii:stringItemType	na	duration	
Short-term investments	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbrii:monetaryItemType debit	instant	1,205,925	1,042,224
Corporate bonds [Member]			na			
Assets:	us-gaap_AssetsFairValueDisclosureAbstract	us-gaap	xbrii:stringItemType	na	duration	
Short-term investments	us-gaap_AvailableForSaleSecuritiesFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbrii:monetaryItemType debit	instant		\$ 11,760

+ Details

Notes Details - Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures (Details Textual)

Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures (Details Textual) (USD \$)	XBRL Details						12 Months Ended Dec. 31, 2011 Bond Lawsuit Rigs Contract Well Drilling Y ft Country	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type			
Financial Instruments and Fair Value Disclosures (Textual) [Abstract]	do_FinancialInstrumentsAndFairValueDisclosuresTextualAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Allowance for bad debts	us-gaap_AllowanceForDoubtfulAccountsReceivableCurrent	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ (6,867,000)	\$ (31,908,000)	
Number of wells in drilling program	do_NumberOfWells	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	duration	6		
Aggregate drilling rate, per day	do_AggregateDrillingRate	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	na	duration	560,000		
Daily payment under amended six-well drilling program	do_DailyOperatingRateNormalTerms	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	75,000		
Receipt of invoice due, in days	do_NormalCreditTerms	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration	due 30 days after receipt of invoice		
Remainder of the contractual dayrate	do_DailyOperatingRateSpecialTerms	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	duration	485,000		
Net profits interest percent	do_NetProfitsInterestPercent	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration	27.00%		
Accounts receivable	do_TradeReceivablePayableCurrent	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		49,600,000	
Long-term receivable	do_TradeReceivablePayableNonCurrent	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		35,400,000	
Total amount payable through the net profits interest	do_TradeReceivablePayable	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		85,000,000	
Accounts receivable expected to be collected within one year	do_AccountsReceivableExpectedToBeCollectedWithinOneYear	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	95,800,000		
Cash held in money market funds [Member] Level 1 [Member]			na					
Fair Value, Assets and Liabilities Measured on Recurring and Nonrecurring Basis [Line Items]	us-gaap_FairValueAssetsAndLiabilitiesMeasuredOnRecurringAndNonrecurringBasisLineItems	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Fair value of investments	us-gaap_InvestmentsFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	303,900,000	442,200,000	
U.S. Treasury Bills [Member] Level 1 [Member]			na					
Fair Value, Assets and Liabilities Measured on Recurring and Nonrecurring Basis [Line Items]	us-gaap_FairValueAssetsAndLiabilitiesMeasuredOnRecurringAndNonrecurringBasisLineItems	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Fair value of investments	us-gaap_InvestmentsFairValueDisclosure	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	902,000,000	600,000,000	
Petrobras [Member]			na					
Accounts Receivable By Major Customers [Line Items]	do_AccountsReceivableByMajorCustomersLineItems	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Accounts receivable due from major customer	do_AccountsReceivableDueFromMajorCustomer	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	110,400,000	180,800,000	
Percentage of accounts receivable due from major customer	do_PercentageOfAccountsReceivableDueFromMajorCustomer	do	num:percentItemType	na	instant	20.00%	29.00%	
OGX [Member]			na					
Accounts Receivable By Major Customers [Line Items]	do_AccountsReceivableByMajorCustomersLineItems	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Accounts receivable due from major customer	do_AccountsReceivableDueFromMajorCustomer	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 69,400,000	\$ 52,400,000	
Percentage of accounts receivable due from major customer	do_PercentageOfAccountsReceivableDueFromMajorCustomer	do	num:percentItemType	na	instant	12.00%	8.00%	

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Notes Details - Drilling and Other Property and Equipment (Details)

Drilling and Other Property and Equipment (Details) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type			
Summary of cost and accumulated depreciation of drilling and other property and equipment	do_SummaryOfCostAndAccumulatedDepreciationOfDrillingAndOtherPropertyAndEquipmentAbstract	do	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration			
Drilling rigs and equipment	us-gaap_MachineryAndEquipmentGross	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 7,431,713	\$ 7,163,196	
Construction work-in-progress	us-gaap_ConstructionInProgressGross	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	504,805	0	
Land and buildings	do_LandAndBuildings	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	60,926	56,536	
Office equipment and other	us-gaap_FurnitureAndFixturesGross	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	49,035	44,689	
Cost	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentGross	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	8,046,479	7,264,421	
Less: accumulated depreciation	us-gaap_AccumulatedDepreciationDepletionAndAmortizationPropertyPlantAndEquipment	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(3,379,010)	(2,980,629)	
Drilling and other property and equipment, net	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentNet	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 4,667,469	\$ 4,283,792	\$ 4,432,052

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Notes Details - Drilling and Other Property and Equipment (Details Textual)

Drilling and Other Property and Equipment (Details Textual) (USD \$)	XBRL Details					1 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Aug. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2011 Y Rigs ft Bond Drilling Country	Dec. 31, 2010
Property, Plant and Equipment [Line Items]	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Construction work-in-progress	us-gaap_ConstructionInProgressGross	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		\$ 504,805,000	\$ 0
Drilling and Other Property and Equipment (Textual) [Abstract]	do_DrillingAndOtherPropertyAndEquipmentTextualAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Number of drillships under construction	do_NumberOfDrillshipsUnderConstruction	do	xbrli:integerItemType	na	instant		3	
Construction milestone payments	do_AccruedDrillshipConstructionInstallment	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant		14,600,000	154,427,000
Number of additional drillship construction agreements	do_NumberOfAdditionalDrillshipConstructionAgreements	do	xbrli:integerItemType	na	instant		2	
Aggregate payments related to drillships	do_AggregatePaymentsRelatedToDrillships	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	478,300,000		
Ocean Onyx [Member]			na					
Property, Plant and Equipment [Line Items]	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Construction work-in-progress	us-gaap_ConstructionInProgressGross	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		14,600,000	
Drillship [Member]			na					
Property, Plant and Equipment [Line Items]	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Construction work-in-progress	us-gaap_ConstructionInProgressGross	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant		\$ 490,200,000	

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Notes Details - Long Term Debt (Details)

Long Term Debt (Details) (USD \$) In Millions, unless otherwise specified	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended Dec. 31, 2011
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	
15% Senior Notes [Member]			na			
Summary of long-term debt comprised	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentsAbstract	us- gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration	
Aggregate Principal Amount	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentFaceAmount	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 250.0
Maturity Date	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentMaturityDate	us- gaap	xbri:dateItemType	na	duration	Sep. 01, 2014
Stated Interest Rate	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentInterestRateStatedPercentage	us- gaap	num:percentItemType	na	instant	5.15%
Semiannual Interest Payment Dates	do_DebtInstrumentsSemiannualInterestPaymentDate	do	us- types:dateStringItemType	na	duration	March 1 and September 1
875% Senior Notes [Member]			na			
Summary of long-term debt comprised	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentsAbstract	us- gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration	
Aggregate Principal Amount	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentFaceAmount	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	250.0
Maturity Date	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentMaturityDate	us- gaap	xbri:dateItemType	na	duration	Jul. 01, 2015
Stated Interest Rate	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentInterestRateStatedPercentage	us- gaap	num:percentItemType	na	instant	4.875%
Semiannual Interest Payment Dates	do_DebtInstrumentsSemiannualInterestPaymentDate	do	us- types:dateStringItemType	na	duration	January 1 and July 1
5.875% Senior Notes [Member]			na			
Summary of long-term debt comprised	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentsAbstract	us- gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration	
Aggregate Principal Amount	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentFaceAmount	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	500.0
Maturity Date	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentMaturityDate	us- gaap	xbri:dateItemType	na	duration	May 01, 2019
Stated Interest Rate	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentInterestRateStatedPercentage	us- gaap	num:percentItemType	na	instant	5.875%
Semiannual Interest Payment Dates	do_DebtInstrumentsSemiannualInterestPaymentDate	do	us- types:dateStringItemType	na	duration	May 1 and November 1
70% Senior Notes [Member]			na			
Summary of long-term debt comprised	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentsAbstract	us- gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration	
Aggregate Principal Amount	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentFaceAmount	us- gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 500.0
Maturity Date	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentMaturityDate	us- gaap	xbri:dateItemType	na	duration	Oct. 15, 2039
Stated Interest Rate	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentInterestRateStatedPercentage	us- gaap	num:percentItemType	na	instant	5.70%
Semiannual Interest Payment Dates	do_DebtInstrumentsSemiannualInterestPaymentDate	do	us- types:dateStringItemType	na	duration	April 15 and October 15

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Notes Details - Long Term Debt (Details 1)

Long Term Debt (Details 1) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Peri Ty		
Long-Term Debt	us-gaap_LongTermDebtAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Total	us-gaap_LongTermDebtNoncurrent	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 1,495,823	\$ 1,495,593
5.15% Senior Notes [Member]			na				
Long-Term Debt	us-gaap_LongTermDebtAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Senior notes	us-gaap_SeniorNotes	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	249,811	249,745
4.875% Senior Notes [Member]			na				
Long-Term Debt	us-gaap_LongTermDebtAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Senior notes	us-gaap_SeniorNotes	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	249,779	249,724
5.875% Senior Notes [Member]			na				
Long-Term Debt	us-gaap_LongTermDebtAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Senior notes	us-gaap_SeniorNotes	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	499,414	499,351
7.70% Senior Notes [Member]			na				
Long-Term Debt	us-gaap_LongTermDebtAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Senior notes	us-gaap_SeniorNotes	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 496,819	\$ 496,773

Notes Details - Long Term Debt (Details 2)

Long Term Debt (Details 2) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		
Aggregate maturities of long-term debt	us-gaap_LongTermDebtByMaturityAbstract	us- gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
2012	us-gaap_LongTermDebtMaturitiesRepaymentsOfPrincipalInNextTwelveMonths	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 0	
2013	us-gaap_LongTermDebtMaturitiesRepaymentsOfPrincipalInYearTwo	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	0	
2014	us-gaap_LongTermDebtMaturitiesRepaymentsOfPrincipalInYearThree	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	249,811	
2015	us-gaap_LongTermDebtMaturitiesRepaymentsOfPrincipalInYearFour	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	249,779	
2016	us-gaap_LongTermDebtMaturitiesRepaymentsOfPrincipalInYearFive	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	0	
Thereafter	us-gaap_LongTermDebtMaturitiesRepaymentsOfPrincipalAfterYearFive	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	996,233	
Total	us-gaap_LongTermDebtNoncurrent	us- gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 1,495,823	\$ 1,495,593

Notes Details - Long Term Debt (Details Textual)

Long Term Debt (Details Textual)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011
Long Term Debt (Textual) [Abstract]	do_LongTermDebtTextualAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration	
Notice period for redemption of notes	do_NoticePeriodForRedemptionOfNotes	do	us-types:durationStringItemType	na	duration	15 to 60 days
5.70% Senior Notes [Member]			na			
Long Term Debt (Textual) [Abstract]	do_LongTermDebtTextualAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration	
Interest rate of senior notes	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentInterestRateStatedPercentage	us-gaap	num:percentItemType	na	instant	5.70%
875% Senior Notes [Member]			na			
Long Term Debt (Textual) [Abstract]	do_LongTermDebtTextualAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration	
Interest rate of senior notes	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentInterestRateStatedPercentage	us-gaap	num:percentItemType	na	instant	5.875%
4.875% Senior Notes [Member]			na			
Long Term Debt (Textual) [Abstract]	do_LongTermDebtTextualAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration	
Interest rate of senior notes	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentInterestRateStatedPercentage	us-gaap	num:percentItemType	na	instant	4.875%
.15% Senior Notes [Member]			na			
Long Term Debt (Textual) [Abstract]	do_LongTermDebtTextualAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration	
Interest rate of senior notes	us-gaap_DebtInstrumentInterestRateStatedPercentage	us-gaap	num:percentItemType	na	instant	5.15%

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Notes Details - Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (Details)

Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (Details) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
FOREX contracts:	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeDerivativesQualifyingAsHedgesNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecreaseAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Unrealized holding gain/loss Before Tax	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeUnrealizedGainLossOnDerivativesArisingDuringPeriodBeforeTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	\$ (962)	\$ 3,591	\$ 9,838
Unrealized holding gain/loss Tax Effect	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeUnrealizedGainLossOnDerivativesArisingDuringPeriodTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	337	(1,257)	(3,443)
Unrealized holding gain/loss Net-of-Tax	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeUnrealizedGainLossOnDerivativesArisingDuringPeriodNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(625)	2,334	6,395
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income Before Tax	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeReclassificationAdjustmentOnDerivativesIncludedInNetIncomeBeforeTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(10,351)	(1,790)	(7,434)
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income Tax Effect	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeReclassificationAdjustmentOnDerivativesIncludedInNetIncomeTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	3,623	626	2,602
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeReclassificationAdjustmentOnDerivativesIncludedInNetIncomeNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(6,728)	(1,164)	(4,832)
Net unrealized gain/loss on FOREX contracts Before Tax	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeDerivativesQualifyingAsHedgesBeforeTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	na	duration	(11,313)	1,801	2,404
Net unrealized gain/loss on FOREX contracts Tax Effect	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeDerivativesQualifyingAsHedgesTaxEffectPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	na	duration	3,960	(631)	(841)
Net unrealized gain/loss on FOREX contracts Net-of-Tax	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeDerivativesQualifyingAsHedgesNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	na	duration	(7,353)	1,170	1,563
Investments in marketable securities:	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeAvailableForSaleSecuritiesAdjustmentNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecreaseAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Unrealized holding gain/loss Before Tax	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeUnrealizedHoldingGainLossOnSecuritiesArisingDuringPeriodBeforeTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(61)	528	63
Unrealized holding gain/loss Tax Effect	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeUnrealizedHoldingGainLossOnSecuritiesArisingDuringPeriodTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	15	(185)	(22)
Unrealized holding gain/loss Net-of-Tax	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeUnrealizedHoldingGainLossOnSecuritiesArisingDuringPeriodNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(46)	343	41
Reclassification adjustment for gain/loss included in net income Before Tax	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeReclassificationAdjustmentForSaleOfSecuritiesIncludedInNetIncomeBeforeTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(589)	36	(783)
Reclassification adjustment for gain/loss included in net income Tax Effect	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeReclassificationAdjustmentForSaleOfSecuritiesIncludedInNetIncomeTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	205	(13)	274
Reclassification adjustment for (gain) loss included in net income	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeReclassificationAdjustmentForSaleOfSecuritiesIncludedInNetIncomeNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(384)	23	(509)
Net unrealized gain/loss on marketable securities Before Tax	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeAvailableForSaleSecuritiesAdjustmentBeforeTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	na	duration	(650)	564	(720)
Net unrealized gain/loss on marketable securities Tax Effect	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeAvailableForSaleSecuritiesTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	na	duration	220	(198)	252
Net unrealized gain/loss on marketable securities Net-of-Tax	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeAvailableForSaleSecuritiesAdjustmentNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	na	duration	(430)	366	(468)
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), before Tax, Total	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeLossBeforeTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	na	duration	(11,963)	2,365	1,684
Other comprehensive income Tax Effect	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeLossTax	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	4,180	(829)	(589)
Total other comprehensive gain (loss)	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeLossNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	na	duration	\$ (7,783)	\$ 1,536	\$ 1,095

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Notes Details - Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (Details 1)

Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (Details 1) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Components of accumulated other comprehensive income loss	us-gaap_AccumulatedOtherComprehensiveIncomeLossNetOfTaxAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Beginning balance, FOREX contracts	us-gaap_AccumulatedOtherComprehensiveIncomeLossCumulativeChangesInNetGainLossFromCashFlowHedgesEffectNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 2,733	\$ 1,563	
Beginning balance, Marketable securities	us-gaap_AccumulatedOtherComprehensiveIncomeLossAvailableForSaleSecuritiesAdjustmentNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	408	42	
Total other comprehensive income loss, beginning balance	us-gaap_AccumulatedOtherComprehensiveIncomeLossNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	3,141	1,605	
Other comprehensive gain/loss, FOREX contracts	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeDerivativesQualifyingAsHedgesNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	na	duration	(7,353)	1,170	1,563
Other comprehensive gain/loss, Marketable securities	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeAvailableForSaleSecuritiesAdjustmentNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	na	duration	(430)	366	(468)
Total other comprehensive gain/loss	us-gaap_OtherComprehensiveIncomeLossNetOfTaxPeriodIncreaseDecrease	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	na	duration	(7,783)	1,536	1,095
Ending balance, FOREX contracts	us-gaap_AccumulatedOtherComprehensiveIncomeLossCumulativeChangesInNetGainLossFromCashFlowHedgesEffectNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(4,620)	2,733	1,563
Ending balance, Marketable securities	us-gaap_AccumulatedOtherComprehensiveIncomeLossAvailableForSaleSecuritiesAdjustmentNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(22)	408	42
Total other comprehensive income loss, ending balance	us-gaap_AccumulatedOtherComprehensiveIncomeLossNetOfTax	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ (4,642)	\$ 3,141	\$ 1,605

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Notes Details - Commitments and Contingencies (Details)

Commitments and Contingencies (Details) (USD \$)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended						
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011 Bond Lawsuit Rigs Contract Well Drilling Installation Y ft Country	Dec. 31, 2010 Y Installation Rigs	Dec. 31, 2009	Dec. 31, 2015	Dec. 31, 2014	Dec. 31, 2013	Dec. 31, 2012
Commitments and Contingencies (Textual) [Abstract]	do_CommitmentsAndContingenciesTextualAbstract	do	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration							
Deductible for marine liability coverage including personal injury claims, per first occurrence	do_DeductibleForMarineLiabilityCoverageIncludingPersonalInjuryClaimsPerFirstOccurrence	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 10,000,000						
Range of deductible for liability coverage for personal injury claims, lower limit	do_RangeOfDeductibleForLiabilityCoverageForPersonalInjuryClaimsLowerLimit	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	5,000,000						
Range of deductible for liability coverage for personal injury claims, upper limit	do_RangeOfDeductibleForLiabilityCoverageForPersonalInjuryClaimsUpperLimit	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	100,000,000						
Estimated liability for personal injury claims	us-gaap_LossContingencyEstimateOfPossibleLoss	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	Instant	32,700,000	35,000,000					
Reserve for personal injury claims recorded in accrued liabilities	do_ReserveForPersonalInjuryClaimsRecordedInAccruedLiabilities	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	10,100,000	11,100,000					
Reserve for personal injury claims recorded in other liabilities	do_ReserveForPersonalInjuryClaimsRecordedInOtherLiabilities	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	22,600,000	23,900,000					
Total unconditional purchase obligation for Onyx Project	do_UnconditionalPurchaseObligation	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	300,000,000						
Number of Installments due under each rig construction agreement	do_NumberOfInstallmentsDueUnderEachRigConstructionAgreement	do	xbrl:integerItemType	na	duration	11	2					
Milestone payment	do_RecordedPurchaseObligationMilestonePayment	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	14,600,000						
Number of turnkey contracts for drillship construction	do_NumberOfTurnkeyContracts	do	xbrl:integerItemType	na	duration	3						
Total unconditional purchase obligation for drillships	do_UnconditionalPurchaseObligationDrillships	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	1,800,000,000						
First Installments on Drillships aggregate amount	us-gaap_UnrecordedUnconditionalPurchaseObligationPurchases	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	478,300,000						
Other Purchase obligations	do_PurchaseObligations	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	0	0					
Rental expense under operating leases	us-gaap_LeaseAndRentalExpense	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	9,300,000	8,000,000	6,000,000				
Future minimum rental payments under leases, in current years	us-gaap_OperatingLeasesFutureMinimumPaymentsDueCurrent	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant							1,800,000
Future minimum rental payments under leases, in two years	us-gaap_OperatingLeasesFutureMinimumPaymentsDueInTwoYears	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant						1,100,000	
Future minimum rental payments under leases, in three years	us-gaap_OperatingLeasesFutureMinimumPaymentsDueInThreeYears	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant					700,000		
Future minimum rental payments under leases, in four years	us-gaap_OperatingLeasesFutureMinimumPaymentsDueInFourYears	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant				100,000			
Future minimum rental payments under leases, thereafter	us-gaap_OperatingLeasesFutureMinimumPaymentsDueThereafter	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	0						
Contingent liability under letters of credit and other bonds	do_ContingentLiabilityUnderLettersOfCreditAndOtherBonds	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	108,400,000						
Number of outstanding bonds purchased from related parties	do_NumberOfOutstandingBondsPurchasedFromRelatedParties	do	xbrl:integerItemType	na	Instant	1						
Notional amount of outstanding bonds purchased from related parties	do_NotionalAmountOfOutstandingBondsPurchasedFromRelatedParties	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	11,800,000						
Collateral deposits related to agreements	do_CollateralDepositsRelatedToAgreements	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	88,200,000						
Number of lawsuits filed in Louisiana and Mississippi state courts	us-gaap_LossContingencyNewClaimsFiledNumber	us-gaap	xbrl:integerItemType	na	duration	30						
Construction milestone payments	us-gaap_RecordedUnconditionalPurchaseObligationDueWithinOneYear	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	\$ 14,600,000	\$ 154,400,000					
Semisubmersible rig designed to operate in water depths	do_MaximumWaterDepthsToOperate	do	num:lengthItemType	na	Instant	6,000						

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Notes Details - Related-Party Transactions (Details)

Related-Party Transactions (Details) (USD \$)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Related Party Transactions (Textual) [Abstract]	do_RelatedPartyTransactionsTextualAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Number of performance bonds outstanding	do_NumberOfPerformanceBondsOutstanding	do	xbrli:integerItemType	na	duration 1			
Amount of performance bonds outstanding	do_AmountOfPerformanceBondsOutstanding	do	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 11,800,000		
Terms and conditions of service agreement with Loews	us-gaap_RelatedPartyTransactionTermsAndMannerOfSettlement	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration	Services Agreement may be terminated at our option upon 30 days' notice to Loews and at the option of Loews upon six months' notice to us		
Services Agreement with Loews [Member]			na					
Related Party Transaction [Line Items]	us-gaap_RelatedPartyTransactionLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Related party transaction expenses	us-gaap_RelatedPartyTransactionExpensesFromTransactionsWithRelatedParty	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	1,100,000	1,300,000	1,100,000
Performance and Appeal Bonds of Loews [Member]			na					
Related Party Transaction [Line Items]	us-gaap_RelatedPartyTransactionLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Related party transaction expenses	us-gaap_RelatedPartyTransactionExpensesFromTransactionsWithRelatedParty	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	80,000	58,000	213,000
SEACOR Holdings Inc [Member]			na					
Related Party Transaction [Line Items]	us-gaap_RelatedPartyTransactionLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Related party transaction expenses	us-gaap_RelatedPartyTransactionExpensesFromTransactionsWithRelatedParty	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	100,000	3,100,000	3,600,000
Ernst & Young LLP [Member]			na					
Related Party Transaction [Line Items]	us-gaap_RelatedPartyTransactionLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Related party transaction expenses	us-gaap_RelatedPartyTransactionExpensesFromTransactionsWithRelatedParty	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,100,000

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Notes Details - Income Taxes (Details)

Income Taxes (Details) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Components of income tax expense (benefit)	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExpenseBenefitAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Federal - current	us-gaap_CurrentFederalTaxExpenseBenefit	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 109,684	\$ 183,825	\$ 255,753
State - current	us-gaap_CurrentStateAndLocalTaxExpenseBenefit	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	264	191	131
Foreign - current	us-gaap_CurrentForeignTaxExpenseBenefit	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	104,640	203,459	150,804
Total current	us-gaap_CurrentIncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	214,588	387,475	406,688
Federal - deferred	us-gaap_DeferredFederalIncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(1,023)	8,287	80,258
Foreign - deferred	us-gaap_DeferredForeignIncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	3,164	(15,203)	5,266
Total deferred	us-gaap_DeferredIncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	2,141	(6,916)	85,524
Income tax expense, Total	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 216,729	\$ 380,559	\$ 492,212

+ References+ Details

Notes Details - Income Taxes (Details 1)

Income Taxes (Details 1) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details				3 Months Ended									12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Sep. 30, 2011	Jun. 30, 2011	Mar. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Sep. 30, 2010	Jun. 30, 2010	Mar. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Income before income tax expense:	us-gaap_IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeIncomeTaxesMinorityInterestAndIncomeLossFromEquityMethodInvestmentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItem	na	duration											
US	us-gaap_IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeIncomeTaxesDomestic	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItem	credit	duration									\$ 486,393	\$ 755,982	\$ 1,250,094
Foreign	us-gaap_IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeIncomeTaxesForeign	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItem	credit	duration									692,878	580,034	618,337
Income before income tax expense	us-gaap_IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeIncomeTaxesMinorityInterestAndIncomeLossFromEquityMethodInvestments	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItem	credit	duration	203,547	334,849	344,026	296,849	310,512	298,566	320,926	406,012	1,179,271	1,336,016	1,868,431
Expected income tax expense at federal statutory rate	us-gaap_IncomeTaxReconciliationIncomeTaxExpenseBenefitFederalStatutoryIncomeTaxRate	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItem	debit	duration									412,745	467,606	653,951
Foreign earnings of foreign subsidiaries (not taxed at the statutory federal income tax rate) net of related foreign taxes	us-gaap_IncomeTaxReconciliationForeignIncomeTaxRateDifferential	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItem	debit	duration									(192,975)	(191,789)	(184,783)
Foreign earnings of foreign subsidiaries for which US federal income taxes have been provided	do_ForeignEarningsOfForeignSubsidiariesForWhichUSFederalIncomeTaxesHaveBeenProvided	do	xbrl:monetaryItem	debit	duration									(14,681)	29,736	62,025
Foreign taxes of domestic and foreign subsidiaries for which US federal income taxes have also been provided	do_ForeignTaxesOfDomesticAndForeignSubsidiariesForWhichUSFederalIncomeTaxesHaveAlsoBeenProvided	do	xbrl:monetaryItem	debit	duration									65,521	119,009	111,381
Foreign tax credits	us-gaap_IncomeTaxReconciliationTaxCreditsForeign	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItem	credit	duration									(67,232)	(89,809)	(167,756)
Reduction of deferred tax liability related to a goodwill deduction resulting from a prior period stock acquisition	do_IncomeTaxReconciliationReductionOfDeferredTaxLiabilityRelatedToParentCompanyGoodwillDeduction	do	xbrl:monetaryItem	credit	duration									(2,950)	(8,850)	(8,850)
Domestic production activities deduction	us-gaap_IncomeTaxReconciliationDeductionsQualifiedProductionActivities	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItem	credit	duration											(6,271)
Uncertain tax positions	us-gaap_IncomeTaxReconciliationTaxContingencies	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItem	debit	duration									(7,733)	30,950	8,003
Amortization of deferred charges associated with intercompany sales to other tax jurisdictions	do_IncomeTaxReconciliationAmortizationOfDeferredTaxLiabilityAndOtherChargesRelatedToTransferOfDrillingRigsToDifferentTaxingJurisdictions	do	xbrl:monetaryItem	debit	duration									29,556	30,442	14,167
Long-term capital gain on dividend distribution	us-gaap_IncomeTaxReconciliationDeductionsDividends	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItem	credit	duration											2,450
Net expense (benefit) in connection with resolutions of tax issues and adjustments relating to prior years	us-gaap_IncomeTaxReconciliationPriorYearIncomeTaxes	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItem	debit	duration									(6,085)	(7,346)	6,916
Other	us-gaap_IncomeTaxReconciliationOtherAdjustments	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItem	debit	duration									563	610	979
Income tax expense, Total	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItem	debit	duration									\$ 216,729	\$ 380,559	\$ 492,212

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Notes Details - Income Taxes (Details 2)

Income Taxes (Details 2) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		
Deferred tax assets:	us-gaap_ComponentsOfDeferredTaxAssetsAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwards	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 27,212	\$ 34,824
Goodwill	do_DeferredTaxAssetsGoodwill	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	0	1,049
Worker's compensation and other current accruals	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsTaxDeferredExpenseReservesAndAccrualsAccruedLiabilities	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	15,487	17,178
Disputed receivables reserved	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsTaxDeferredExpenseReservesAndAccrualsLossReserves	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	6	2,521
Deferred compensation	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsTaxDeferredExpenseCompensationAndBenefitsEmployeeCompensation	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	4,504	7,478
Foreign contribution taxes	do_ForeignContributionTaxes	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	5,615	3,100
Foreign tax credits	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsTaxCreditCarryforwardsForeign	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	0	186
Nonqualified stock options and SARs	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsTaxDeferredExpenseCompensationAndBenefitsShareBasedCompensationCost	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	7,538	6,048
Other	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOther	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	2,212	3,133
Total deferred tax assets	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsGross	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	62,574	75,517
Valuation allowance for foreign tax credits	us-gaap_TaxCreditCarryforwardValuationAllowance	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	0	(186)
Valuation allowance for NOLs	us-gaap_OperatingLossCarryforwardsValuationAllowance	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(26,353)	(31,916)
Net deferred tax assets	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsNet	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	36,221	43,415
Deferred tax liabilities:	us-gaap_ComponentsOfDeferredTaxLiabilitiesAbstract	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration		
Depreciation	us-gaap_DeferredTaxLiabilitiesPropertyPlantAndEquipment	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(558,915)	(558,346)
Unbilled revenue	us-gaap_DeferredTaxLiabilitiesTaxDeferredIncome	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(3,216)	(347)
Mobilization	do_DeferredTaxLiabilitiesMobilization	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(3,939)	(2,181)
Undistributed earnings of foreign subsidiaries	us-gaap_DeferredTaxLiabilitiesUndistributedForeignEarnings	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(24)	(15,023)
Other	us-gaap_DeferredTaxLiabilitiesOther	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(141)	(219)
Total deferred tax liabilities	us-gaap_DeferredTaxLiabilities	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(566,235)	(576,116)
Net deferred tax liability	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsLiabilitiesNet	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ (530,014)	\$ (532,701)

+ Details

Notes Details - Income Taxes (Details 3)

Income Taxes (Details 3) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Summary of changes in the valuation allowance	do_SummaryOfChangesInValuationAllowanceAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Beginning Balance	us-gaap_ValuationAllowanceAmount	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 32,102	\$ 30,975	\$ 29,087
Establishment of valuation allowances	do_EstablishmentOfValuationAllowancesAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Foreign tax credits	do_AdditionToValuationAllowancePertainingToForeignTaxCredits	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(186)	79	107
Net operating losses	do_AdditionToValuationAllowancePertainingToNetOperatingLosses	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	1,844	13,381	2,025
Releases of valuation allowances in various jurisdictions	do_ReleaseOfValuationAllowance	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(7,407)	(12,333)	(244)
Ending Balance	us-gaap_ValuationAllowanceAmount	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ 26,353	\$ 32,102	\$ 30,975

+ Details

Notes Details - Income Taxes (Details 4)

Income Taxes (Details 4) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits, excluding interest and penalties	us-gaap_ReconciliationOfUnrecognizedTaxBenefitsExcludingAmountsPertainingToExaminedTaxReturnsRollForward	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Beginning Balance	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefits	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ (45,936)	\$ (27,008)	\$ (23,697)
Reduction based on tax positions related to a prior year	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsDecreasesResultingFromPriorPeriodTaxPositions	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	1,851		(4,557)
Additions based on tax positions related to the prior year	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsIncreasesResultingFromPriorPeriodTaxPositions	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration		(15,764)	
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsIncreasesResultingFromCurrentPeriodTaxPositions	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(900)	(3,164)	(4,340)
Reductions as a result of a lapse of the applicable statute of limitations	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsReductionsResultingFromLapseOfApplicableStatuteOfLimitations	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	3,744		5,586
Ending Balance	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefits	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(41,241)	(45,936)	(27,008)
Long Term Tax Receivable [Member]			na					
Reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits, excluding interest and penalties	us-gaap_ReconciliationOfUnrecognizedTaxBenefitsExcludingAmountsPertainingToExaminedTaxReturnsRollForward	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Beginning Balance	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefits	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	7,036	6,471	5,534
Reduction based on tax positions related to a prior year	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsDecreasesResultingFromPriorPeriodTaxPositions	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	0		
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsIncreasesResultingFromCurrentPeriodTaxPositions	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	145	565	2,441
Reductions as a result of a lapse of the applicable statute of limitations	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsReductionsResultingFromLapseOfApplicableStatuteOfLimitations	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	0		(1,504)
Ending Balance	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefits	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	7,181	7,036	6,471
Long Term Tax Payable [Member]			na					
Reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits, excluding interest and penalties	us-gaap_ReconciliationOfUnrecognizedTaxBenefitsExcludingAmountsPertainingToExaminedTaxReturnsRollForward	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Beginning Balance	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefits	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	(52,972)	(33,479)	(29,231)
Reduction based on tax positions related to a prior year	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsDecreasesResultingFromPriorPeriodTaxPositions	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	1,851		(4,557)
Additions based on tax positions related to the prior year	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsIncreasesResultingFromPriorPeriodTaxPositions	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration		(15,764)	
Additions based on tax positions related to the current year	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsIncreasesResultingFromCurrentPeriodTaxPositions	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	(1,045)	(3,729)	(6,781)
Reductions as a result of a lapse of the applicable statute of limitations	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsReductionsResultingFromLapseOfApplicableStatuteOfLimitations	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	3,744		7,090
Ending Balance	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefits	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	instant	\$ (48,422)	\$ (52,972)	\$ (33,479)

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Notes Details - Income Taxes (Details 5)

Income Taxes (Details 5) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type		
Tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwardsComponentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwards	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 27,212	\$ 34,824
2014 [Member] Mexico [Member]			na				
Tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwardsComponentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwards	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	1,200	
2015 [Member] Mexico [Member]			na				
Tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwardsComponentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwards	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	4,500	
2016 [Member] Mexico [Member]			na				
Tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwardsComponentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwards	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	7,200	
2017 [Member] Mexico [Member]			na				
Tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwardsComponentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwards	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	5,800	
2018 [Member] Mexico [Member]			na				
Tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwardsComponentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwards	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	0	
2019 [Member] Mexico [Member]			na				
Tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwardsComponentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwards	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	0	
2020 [Member] Mexico [Member]			na				
Tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwardsComponentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwards	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	200	
2021 [Member] Mexico [Member]			na				
Tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwardsComponentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwards	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	100	
Total [Member] Mexico [Member]			na				
Tax benefits of these Mexican NOL carryforwards	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwardsComponentsAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration		
Net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsOperatingLossCarryforwards	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 19,000	

+ References+ Details

Notes Details - Income Taxes (Details Textual)

Income Taxes (Details Textual) (USD \$)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended			12 Months Ended				
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011 Bond Lawsuit Rigs Contract Well Drilling Installation Y Country	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009	Jan. 31, 2012 Mexico [Member] 2006 Tax Year [Member]	Dec. 31, 2011 2006 Tax Year [Member]	Dec. 31, 2011 2000 Tax Year [Member]	Dec. 31, 2009 2005 Tax Year [Member]	Dec. 31, 2011 Mexico [Member] 2004 Tax Year [Member]
Income Tax Examination [Line Items]	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationLineItems	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration								
Total tax assessment including interest and penalty	do_AmountOfTaxAssessmentIncludingInterestAndPenalties	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant				\$ 24,400,000		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 26,000,000	\$ 22,900,000
Decrease in unrecognized tax benefits attributable to transfer pricing methodology	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsReductionsResultingFromLapseOfApplicableStatuteOfLimitations	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	3,744,000		5,586,000		6,800,000			
Income Taxes (Textual) [Abstract]	do_IncomeTaxesTextualAbstract	do	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration								
Taxes for undistributed earnings of the foreign subsidiaries	us-gaap_DeferredTaxLiabilitiesUndistributedForeignEarnings	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	(24,000)	(15,023,000)						
Amount of undistributed foreign earnings and profit	do_AmountOfUndistributedForeignEarningsAndProfit	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	1,700,000,000							
Number of new drillships	do_NumberOfNewDrillships	do	xbrl:integerItemType	na	duration	3							
Reversal of income taxes that had provided in prior periods for earnings of DEA	do_DeferredTaxLiabilitiesUndistributedForeignEarningsReversed	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	15,000,000							
Deferred Tax Asset on Worker's compensation and other current accruals included in prepaid expenses and other current assets	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsNetCurrent	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	Instant	6,800,000	9,557,000						
Unrecognized tax benefits that would impact effective tax rate if recognized	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsThatWouldImpactEffectiveTaxRate	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	41,200,000							
Interest expense (income) associated with uncertain tax positions	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsInterestOnIncomeTaxesExpense	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	200,000	4,800,000	(3,400,000)					
Penalty expense (reversed) associated with uncertain tax positions	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsIncomeTaxPenaltiesExpense	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	(3,000,000)	12,000,000	4,700,000					
Total accrued interest and penalties associated with uncertain tax positions	us-gaap_UnrecognizedTaxBenefitsIncomeTaxPenaltiesAndInterestAccrued	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	31,400,000	34,200,000						
Recognition of tax benefits from uncertain tax positions	do_RecognitionOfTaxBenefitsFromUncertainTaxPositions	do	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration	greater than 50% likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement							
Accrued liabilities related to income tax examination	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationRangeOfPossibleLosses	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	13,800,000							
Accrued interest related to income tax examination	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationInterestAccrued	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	3,600,000							
Accrued penalties related to income tax examination	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationPenaltiesAccrued	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	3,500,000							
Interest related to income tax examination	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationInterestExpense	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	1,100,000							
Penalties related to income tax examination	us-gaap_IncomeTaxExaminationPenaltiesExpense	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	2,000,000							
NOL carryforwards	us-gaap_OperatingLossCarryforwards	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	Instant	27,200,000							
Deferred tax asset relates to NOL carry forwards	do_DeferredTaxAssetNetOperatingLossCarryforwardsIndefiniteLife	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	debit	Instant	8,200,000							
Tax benefit of NOL carryforwards, Mexico	do_NetDeferredTaxAssetRealizedAttributableToMexicoNetOperatingLossCarryforwards	do	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	19,000,000							
Valuation allowance of NOL	us-gaap_OperatingLossCarryforwardsValuationAllowance	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	26,353,000	31,916,000						
Deferred Tax Asset Not Realized	us-gaap_DeferredTaxAssetsValuationAllowance	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	Instant	\$ 800,000							

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Notes Details - Employee Benefit Plans (Details)

Employee Benefit Plans (Details) (USD \$)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Employee Benefit Plans (Textual) [Abstract]	do_EmployeeBenefitPlansTextualAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Provision for contributions to the Supplemental Plan	us-gaap_DeferredCompensationArrangementWithIndividualCompensationExpense	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 245,000	\$ 238,000	\$ 241,000
Vesting period for the profit sharing contribution	do_VestingPeriodForProfitSharingContribution	do	xbrli:durationItemType	na	duration 3 years			
US Plan [Member]			na					
Defined Benefit Plan Disclosure [Line Items]	us-gaap_DefinedBenefitPlanDisclosureLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Defined Contribution Plan, Description of Contribution by the company						contribution of 4%, 4% and 5%, respectively, of participants' defined compensation and in each year matched upto 6% of each employee's compensation contributed to the 401k		
	do_DefinedContributionPlanDescriptionOfContributionByCompany	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration	Plan. Participants are fully vested in the employer match immediately upon enrollment in the 401k Plan and subject to a three year cliff vesting period for the profit sharing contribution.		
Defined contribution plan, cost recognized	us-gaap_DefinedContributionPlanCostRecognized	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	21,500,000	23,800,000	26,000,000
UK Plan [Member]			na					
Defined Benefit Plan Disclosure [Line Items]	us-gaap_DefinedBenefitPlanDisclosureLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Defined Contribution Plan, Description of Contribution by the company						contributions in an amount equal to the employee's contributions, generally up to a maximum of 5.25% of the employee's defined compensation per year for employees		
	do_DefinedContributionPlanDescriptionOfContributionByCompany	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration	working in the U.K. sector of the North Sea and up to a maximum of 9% of the employee's defined compensation per year for U.K. nationals working in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea.		
Defined contribution plan, cost recognized	us-gaap_DefinedContributionPlanCostRecognized	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,400,000
International Savings Plan [Member]			na					
Defined Benefit Plan Disclosure [Line Items]	us-gaap_DefinedBenefitPlanDisclosureLineItems	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Defined Contribution Plan, Description of Contribution by the company						contributed 4%, 4% and 5%, respectively, of participants' defined compensation and in each year matched up to 6% of each employee's compensation contributed to the International Savings Plan.		
	do_DefinedContributionPlanDescriptionOfContributionByCompany	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Defined contribution plan, cost recognized	us-gaap_DefinedContributionPlanCostRecognized	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 2,900,000	\$ 2,800,000	\$ 2,500,000

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Notes Details - Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details)

Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					3 Months Ended								12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Sep. 30, 2011	Jun. 30, 2011	Mar. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Sep. 30, 2010	Jun. 30, 2010	Mar. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Revenues from contract drilling services by equipment-type	us-gaap_RevenuesAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration											
Contract drilling	us-gaap_RevenueOilAndGasServices	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									\$ 3,254,313	\$ 3,229,736	\$ 3,536,579
Revenues related to reimbursable expenses	us-gaap_ReimbursementRevenue	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									68,106	93,238	94,705
Total revenues	us-gaap_Revenues	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	748,357	878,177	889,496	806,389	840,966	799,724	822,603	859,681	3,322,419	3,322,974	3,631,284
Ultra Deepwater [Member]			na													
Revenues from contract drilling services by equipment-type	us-gaap_RevenuesAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration											
Contract drilling	us-gaap_RevenueOilAndGasServices	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									841,565	718,426	746,050
Deepwater [Member]			na													
Revenues from contract drilling services by equipment-type	us-gaap_RevenuesAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration											
Contract drilling	us-gaap_RevenueOilAndGasServices	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									733,037	564,315	525,877
Mid Water [Member]			na													
Revenues from contract drilling services by equipment-type	us-gaap_RevenuesAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration											
Contract drilling	us-gaap_RevenueOilAndGasServices	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									1,482,032	1,678,793	1,807,428
Total Floaters [Member]			na													
Revenues from contract drilling services by equipment-type	us-gaap_RevenuesAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration											
Contract drilling	us-gaap_RevenueOilAndGasServices	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									3,056,634	2,961,534	3,079,355
Jack-ups [Member]			na													
Revenues from contract drilling services by equipment-type	us-gaap_RevenuesAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration											
Contract drilling	us-gaap_RevenueOilAndGasServices	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									197,534	267,983	457,224
Other [Member]			na													
Revenues from contract drilling services by equipment-type	us-gaap_RevenuesAbstract	us-gaap	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration											
Contract drilling	us-gaap_RevenueOilAndGasServices	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									\$ 145	\$ 219	

+ References+ Details

Notes Details - Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details 1)

Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details 1) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details				3 Months Ended									12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Sep. 30, 2011	Jun. 30, 2011	Mar. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Sep. 30, 2010	Jun. 30, 2010	Mar. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Revenues by geographic area, presented by attributing revenues to the Individual country	us-gaap_GeographicAreasRevenuesFromExternalCustomersAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration											
Entity-Wide Disclosure on Geographic Areas, Revenue from External Customers Attributed to Individual Foreign Countries, Amount	us-gaap_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasRevenueFromExternalCustomersAttributedToForeignCountries	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									\$ 2,999,038	\$ 2,687,429	\$ 2,398,344
Total revenues	us-gaap_Revenues	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	748,357	878,177	889,496	806,389	840,966	799,724	822,603	859,681	3,322,419	3,322,974	3,631,284
United States (Member)		na														
Revenues by geographic area, presented by attributing revenues to the Individual country	us-gaap_GeographicAreasRevenuesFromExternalCustomersAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration											
Entity-Wide Disclosure on Geographic Areas, Revenue from External Customers Attributed to Entity's Country of Domicile	us-gaap_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasRevenueFromExternalCustomersAttributedToEntitysCountryOfDomicile	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									323,381	635,945	1,232,940
South America (Member)		na														
Revenues by geographic area, presented by attributing revenues to the Individual country	us-gaap_GeographicAreasRevenuesFromExternalCustomersAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration											
Entity-Wide Disclosure on Geographic Areas, Revenue from External Customers Attributed to Individual Foreign Countries, Amount	us-gaap_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasRevenueFromExternalCustomersAttributedToForeignCountries	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									1,736,798	1,308,641	716,448
Australia/Asia (Member)		na														
Revenues by geographic area, presented by attributing revenues to the Individual country	us-gaap_GeographicAreasRevenuesFromExternalCustomersAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration											
Entity-Wide Disclosure on Geographic Areas, Revenue from External Customers Attributed to Individual Foreign Countries, Amount	us-gaap_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasRevenueFromExternalCustomersAttributedToForeignCountries	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									451,364	641,372	717,658
Europe/Africa/Mediterranean (Member)		na														
Revenues by geographic area, presented by attributing revenues to the Individual country	us-gaap_GeographicAreasRevenuesFromExternalCustomersAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration											
Entity-Wide Disclosure on Geographic Areas, Revenue from External Customers Attributed to Individual Foreign Countries, Amount	us-gaap_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasRevenueFromExternalCustomersAttributedToForeignCountries	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									749,128	601,122	641,180
Mexico (Member)		na														
Revenues by geographic area, presented by attributing revenues to the Individual country	us-gaap_GeographicAreasRevenuesFromExternalCustomersAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration											
Entity-Wide Disclosure on Geographic Areas, Revenue from External Customers Attributed to Individual Foreign Countries, Amount	us-gaap_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasRevenueFromExternalCustomersAttributedToForeignCountries	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration									\$ 61,748	\$ 136,294	\$ 323,058
+ References+ Details																

+ References+ Details

Notes Details - Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details 2)

Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details 2)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Brazil [Member]		na						
Individual countries that comprised 5% or more of our total contract drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers	do_IndividualCountriesThatComprisedFivePercentageOrMoreOfContractDrillingRevenuesFromUnaffiliatedCustomersAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of total drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasRevenueFromExternalCustomersAttributedToForeignCountriesPercentage	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration	49.40%	36.80%	18.20%
Angola [Member]		na						
Individual countries that comprised 5% or more of our total contract drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers	do_IndividualCountriesThatComprisedFivePercentageOrMoreOfContractDrillingRevenuesFromUnaffiliatedCustomersAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of total drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasRevenueFromExternalCustomersAttributedToForeignCountriesPercentage	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration	9.60%	6.10%	1.80%
Australia [Member]		na						
Individual countries that comprised 5% or more of our total contract drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers	do_IndividualCountriesThatComprisedFivePercentageOrMoreOfContractDrillingRevenuesFromUnaffiliatedCustomersAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of total drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasRevenueFromExternalCustomersAttributedToForeignCountriesPercentage	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration	6.70%	10.00%	10.80%
INDONESIA		na						
Individual countries that comprised 5% or more of our total contract drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers	do_IndividualCountriesThatComprisedFivePercentageOrMoreOfContractDrillingRevenuesFromUnaffiliatedCustomersAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of total drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasRevenueFromExternalCustomersAttributedToForeignCountriesPercentage	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration	5.00%	1.30%	1.20%
United Kingdom [Member]		na						
Individual countries that comprised 5% or more of our total contract drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers	do_IndividualCountriesThatComprisedFivePercentageOrMoreOfContractDrillingRevenuesFromUnaffiliatedCustomersAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of total drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasRevenueFromExternalCustomersAttributedToForeignCountriesPercentage	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration	4.60%	5.60%	6.70%
Mexico [Member]		na						
Individual countries that comprised 5% or more of our total contract drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers	do_IndividualCountriesThatComprisedFivePercentageOrMoreOfContractDrillingRevenuesFromUnaffiliatedCustomersAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of total drilling revenues from unaffiliated customers	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasRevenueFromExternalCustomersAttributedToForeignCountriesPercentage	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration	1.90%	4.10%	8.90%

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Notes Details - Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details 3)

Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details 3) (USD \$) In Thousands	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type			
Long-lived tangible assets by geographic location	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasLongLivedTangibleAssetsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Entity-Wide Disclosure on Geographic Areas, Long-Lived Assets in Individual Foreign Countries, Amount	us-gaap_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasLongLivedAssetsInForeignCountries	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 4,384,420	\$ 3,645,263	\$ 2,255,059
Total long lived tangible assets	us-gaap_PropertyPlantAndEquipmentNet	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	4,667,469	4,283,792	4,432,052
United States [Member]		na						
Long-lived tangible assets by geographic location	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasLongLivedTangibleAssetsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Entity-Wide Disclosure on Geographic Areas, Long-Lived Assets in Entity's Country of Domicile	us-gaap_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasLongLivedAssetsInEntitysCountryOfDomicile	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	283,049	638,529	2,176,993
uth America [Member]		na						
Long-lived tangible assets by geographic location	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasLongLivedTangibleAssetsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Entity-Wide Disclosure on Geographic Areas, Long-Lived Assets in Individual Foreign Countries, Amount	us-gaap_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasLongLivedAssetsInForeignCountries	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	1,979,303	2,290,412	874,644
Australia/Asia/Middle East [Member]		na						
Long-lived tangible assets by geographic location	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasLongLivedTangibleAssetsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Entity-Wide Disclosure on Geographic Areas, Long-Lived Assets in Individual Foreign Countries, Amount	us-gaap_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasLongLivedAssetsInForeignCountries	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	1,212,461	417,121	1,015,273
Europe/Africa/Mediterranean [Member]		na						
Long-lived tangible assets by geographic location	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasLongLivedTangibleAssetsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Entity-Wide Disclosure on Geographic Areas, Long-Lived Assets in Individual Foreign Countries, Amount	us-gaap_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasLongLivedAssetsInForeignCountries	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	852,300	897,998	262,037
Mexico [Member]		na						
Long-lived tangible assets by geographic location	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasLongLivedTangibleAssetsAbstract	do	xbrli:stringItemType	na	duration			
Entity-Wide Disclosure on Geographic Areas, Long-Lived Assets in Individual Foreign Countries, Amount	us-gaap_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasLongLivedAssetsInForeignCountries	us-gaap	xbrli:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 340,356	\$ 39,732	\$ 103,105

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Notes Details - Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details 4)

Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details 4)	XBRL Details					Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type			
Brazil [Member]			na					
Countries where parent company had material concentration of operating assets	do_CountriesWhereParentCompanyHadMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssetsAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of material concentration of operating assets	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssets	do	num:percentItemType	na	instant	41.90%	52.70%	19.70%
South Korea [Member]			na					
Countries where parent company had material concentration of operating assets	do_CountriesWhereParentCompanyHadMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssetsAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of material concentration of operating assets	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssets	do	num:percentItemType	na	instant	10.50%	0.00%	0.00%
Angola [Member]			na					
Countries where parent company had material concentration of operating assets	do_CountriesWhereParentCompanyHadMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssetsAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of material concentration of operating assets	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssets	do	num:percentItemType	na	instant	8.00%	1.70%	1.90%
Mexico [Member]			na					
Countries where parent company had material concentration of operating assets	do_CountriesWhereParentCompanyHadMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssetsAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of material concentration of operating assets	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssets	do	num:percentItemType	na	instant	7.30%	0.90%	2.30%
Vietnam [Member]			na					
Countries where parent company had material concentration of operating assets	do_CountriesWhereParentCompanyHadMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssetsAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of material concentration of operating assets	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssets	do	num:percentItemType	na	instant	6.60%	0.60%	0.60%
United States [Member]			na					
Countries where parent company had material concentration of operating assets	do_CountriesWhereParentCompanyHadMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssetsAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of material concentration of operating assets	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssets	do	num:percentItemType	na	instant	6.10%	14.90%	49.10%
Egypt [Member]			na					
Countries where parent company had material concentration of operating assets	do_CountriesWhereParentCompanyHadMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssetsAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of material concentration of operating assets	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssets	do	num:percentItemType	na	instant	5.50%	6.30%	0.90%
Republic of Congo [Member]			na					
Countries where parent company had material concentration of operating assets	do_CountriesWhereParentCompanyHadMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssetsAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of material concentration of operating assets	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssets	do	num:percentItemType	na	instant	0.00%	9.30%	0.00%
Singapore [Member]			na					
Countries where parent company had material concentration of operating assets	do_CountriesWhereParentCompanyHadMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssetsAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of material concentration of operating assets	do_EntityWideDisclosureOnGeographicAreasMaterialConcentrationOfOperatingAssets	do	num:percentItemType	na	instant	0.00%	1.90%	11.50%

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Notes Details - Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details 5)

Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details 5)	XBRL Details					12 Months Ended		
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Petroleo Brasileiro S.A. [Member]			na					
Revenues from major customers that contributed more than 0.10 of total revenues	do_EntityWideRevenueMajorCustomerAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of revenues from major customers	do_EntityWideRevenueMajorCustomerPercentage	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration	35.00%	23.70%	15.00%
GX Petroleo e Gas Ltda [Member]			na					
Revenues from major customers that contributed more than 0.10 of total revenue	do_EntityWideRevenueMajorCustomerAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Percentage of revenues from major customers	do_EntityWideRevenueMajorCustomerPercentage	do	num:percentItemType	na	duration	14.10%	14.10%	1.40%

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Notes Details - Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details Textual)

Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Details Textual) (USD \$) In Thousands, unless otherwise specified	XBRL Details						Dec. 31, 2011 Y Rigs ft Bond Drillship Country	Dec. 31, 2010
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type			
Segment Reporting Information [Line Items]	us-gaap_SegmentReportingInformationLineItems	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Construction work-in-progress	us-gaap_ConstructionInProgressGross	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 504,805	\$ 0	
Segments and Geographic Area Analysis (Textual) [Abstract]	do_SegmentsAndGeographicAreaAnalysisTextualAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Number of countries with rigs	do_NumberOfCountriesWithRigs	do	xbri:integerItemType	na	instant	13		
Australia Asia Middle East [Member]			na					
Segment Reporting Information [Line Items]	us-gaap_SegmentReportingInformationLineItems	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Construction work-in-progress	us-gaap_ConstructionInProgressGross	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	490,200		
South Korea [Member]			na					
Segment Reporting Information [Line Items]	us-gaap_SegmentReportingInformationLineItems	us-gaap	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Construction work-in-progress	us-gaap_ConstructionInProgressGross	us-gaap	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	instant	\$ 490,200		

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Notes Details - Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data (Details)

Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data (Details) (USD \$)	XBRL Details					3 Months Ended								12 Months Ended			
	In Thousands, except Per Share data	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Period Type	Dec. 31, 2011	Sep. 30, 2011	Jun. 30, 2011	Mar. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Sep. 30, 2010	Jun. 30, 2010	Mar. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010	Dec. 31, 2009
Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data		us-gaap_QuarterlyFinancialDataAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration											
Revenues		us-gaap_Revenues	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	\$ 748,357	\$ 878,177	\$ 889,496	\$ 806,389	\$ 840,966	\$ 799,724	\$ 822,603	\$ 859,681	\$ 3,322,419	\$ 3,322,974	\$ 3,631,284
Operating Income		us-gaap_OperatingIncomeLoss	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	218,276	350,277	367,596	319,265	335,710	317,180	345,807	426,677	1,255,414	1,425,374	1,903,213
Income before income tax expense		us-gaap_IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeIncomeTaxesMinorityInterestAndIncomeLossFromEquityMethodInvestments	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	203,547	334,849	344,026	296,849	310,512	298,566	320,926	406,012	1,179,271	1,336,016	1,868,431
Net Income		us-gaap_NetIncomeLoss	us-gaap	xbrl:monetaryItemType	credit	duration	\$ 188,490	\$ 256,854	\$ 266,586	\$ 250,612	\$ 241,687	\$ 198,524	\$ 224,393	\$ 290,833	\$ 962,542	\$ 955,457	\$ 1,376,219
Earnings per share:		us-gaap_EarningsPerShareAbstract	us-gaap	xbrl:stringItemType	na	duration											
Basic		us-gaap_EarningsPerShareBasic	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	duration	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.74	\$ 1.43	\$ 1.61	\$ 2.09	\$ 6.92	\$ 6.87	\$ 9.90
Diluted		us-gaap_EarningsPerShareDiluted	us-gaap	num:perShareItemType	na	duration	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.74	\$ 1.43	\$ 1.61	\$ 2.09	\$ 6.92	\$ 6.87	\$ 9.89

Notes Details - Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data (Details Textual)

Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data (Details Textual) (USD \$) In Millions	XBRL Details						3 Months Ended	
	XBRL Tag Name	XBRL Prefix	Data Type	Balance Type	Peri Type		Dec. 31, 2011	Dec. 31, 2010
Quarterly Financial Data (Textual) [Abstract]	do_QuarterlyFinancialDataTextualAbstract	do	xbri:stringItemType	na	duration			
Recovery of Bad Debts	do_ReserveForBadDebtsRecovered	do	xbri:monetaryItemType	debit	duration	\$ 1.3	\$ 3.9	

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